WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

APRIL/MAY 1974

YUGOSLAVIA

Maric, Buljan, Bogicevic, Katalinski, Hadziabdic, Oblak, Karasi, Acimovic, Petkovic, Surjak, Dzajic.

Read PETER OSGOOD this month

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WORLD SOCCER
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A 1-1 draw against Mexico and a 1-0 victory over Czechoslovakia is hardly the sort of form that supporters of World Cup holders Brazil will have been looking for. Brazil, certainly, have their problems but their renowned ability to rise to the occasion, especially at World Cup time, will doubtless appear again in June.

West Germany were more convincing with their 2-1 victory against a depleted Scottish side. The Germans should have scored a hat-full of goals and the Scots were flattered by the result. Like Brazil, the Germans seem to be able to turn it on when it really matters.

They were without Gunter Netzer and Wolfgang Overath against Scotland but still managed to dominate the midfield play. When one or both of these fine attacking players returns, and Gerd Muller is given the service he relishes, West Germany will be a difficult side to contain.

This magazine has been consistent in its criticism of Sir Alf Ramsey over the past few years and would still like him to gracefully leave his post. However, circumstances forced him to blood a batch of fresh talent against Portugal and there is every hope that he will continue with the likes of Colin Todd, Trevor Brooking and Martin Dobson.

We have campaigned for many months for Todd and Brooking to be given extended runs in the England team. They are the sort of players a future England team can be built around and the more experience gleaned the better.

Mike Channon has proved himself a player of the highest class. Malcolm Macdonald, for all his goalscoring exploits with Newcastle United, has yet to do so. But then Muller is not exactly a class player with intricate ball skills. What he does is score goals. So, too, does Macdonald, providing he receives a decent service.

England must make the best of its assets, of which Macdonald is one. Regrettably we haven't done so in recent years.

The display of Atletico Madrid against Celtic in Glasgow was crude, cynical and sickening. Still worse was the after-match quote by their President, Vincent Calderon. He said: "It was all due to the crazy refereeing decisions."

If Mr Calderon cannot see where the blame lies then there is little chance that Atletico themselves will take measures to punish those responsible. UEFA should do it for them.

It was especially sad to see a club from Madrid playing with such violence in Glasgow. Football has changed since Real lit up Hampden Park with their brilliant display against Eintract a few years ago.

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This month's WORLD SOCCER is a combined April/May edition. Industrial trouble beyond our control adversely affected publication schedules and made it necessary for us to produce a two-in-one issue.

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SCOTS COUL
CAUSE UPSET

IN Group Two only Brazil have been amongst the regular qualifiers in previous competitions and indeed Zaire are participating in the final stages for the first time. Form, however, rarely comes into the reckoning in the World Cups; the strengths and weaknesses of each side vary considerably from one competition to the next.

In addition to the involvement of Zaire this is the group that includes Britain's last hope and with Scotland making a rare appearance they are likely to make an impact—one way or the other. With players like Billy Bremner and Jim Holton playing for Scotland they will certainly make their presence felt even if their results are unfavourable. Should Scotland fail to qualify for the second phase there will certainly be plenty of bruised bones around in the camps of Brazil, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

Brazil have their problems but it seems that all the rumours about Zagalo being dismissed were so much eye-wash. He should still be in charge and with the players who showed up well on their first European tour last year, blending with the veterans of 1970, they should do well. Rivelino and Jairzinho are the Mexico heroes that Zagalo will rely upon most with newcomers like Emerson Leao in goal, and the very promising young *libero* Luis Pereira sure to be prominent.

Ventura Filho Jairzinho . . . will be a key figure for Brazil this year.

Defensively the Brazilians adapted well to European conditions during their 1973 tour—after digesting the lessons of their 0-2 defeat against Italy. They are, of course, the masters of the European defend-and-counter-attack game and the Brazilians fell to them like lambs going to the slaughter-house. Later in the tour and, particularly in Berlin and Glasgow where they beat West Germany and Scotland by the same 1-0 scoreline, the Brazilians showed they were far quicker to learn and adapt themselves than many people had expected.

Certainly Zagalo will have no thoughts about repeating Brazil's performance in Mexico where it was their attack of Jairzinho, Tostao and Pele—launched by Clodoaldo, Gerson and Rivelino, that stood out. That was a triumph for attacking football but there can be no doubt that the conditions in Mexico, heat and altitude combined to favour them. This time it will have to be the European game if Brazil are to do well.

Under the guidance of Zagalo they went more than halfway towards building a 1974 team last year. Leao, Ze Maria, Luis Pereira, and Marco Antonio form a back four that are more or less as good as any in the competition. Then in midfield there is Clodoaldo who failed to impress in 1973 but will almost certainly do better after the thorough physical preparation that is now customary for Brazil prior to all World Cups. Here the problems start, revolving around Rivelino and Paulo Cesar.

Borderline

The last named is one of the borderline players who may or may not get an automatic place in the side. In Europe last year he revealed certain gifts but one big problem: he is not obviously either a front row striker, nor yet is he an adequate replacement for either Gerson or Rivelino in midfield. Gerson will be sorely missed, for he played superbly in Mexico, stationed in front of the defence, always easy to find with a clearance and then turning, launching Pele & Co., with finely judged long passes.

Gerson's role could go to either Paulo Cesar or Rivelino. The latter is the most capable but he has even greater gifts that would be wasted so far back. Thus if Zagalo can convert Paulo Cesar to be the distributor of the team it will be better for everyone. In particular this will help Rivelino who, in Mexico, roamed the

ULD SET

length of the field on the left hand side and going forward often, revealed a really tremendous left foot shot that scored several goals and led to one or two more.

If Zagalo elects for 4-4-2 as he certainly will for the tougher matches then Direeu will complete the middle line. For one so young and inexperienced he had a fine tour, playing in the withdrawn left winger role as Zagalo did 16 years ago, much as Rivelino did in Mexico. For 4-4-2 I expect the middle line to be Clodoaldo, Rivelino, Paulo Cesar and Direeu.

Up front it will be difficult for Zagalo to find two strikers for 4-4-2 let alone three should he be more venturesome. In 1973, this was where Brazil's big problems lay and it will not be until the competition starts that we will be able to see whether or not Zagalo has solved his biggest headache. Jairzinho was lacking match practice in Europe and clearly not as fit as he was in 1970, but this as in the case of Clodoaldo should be remedied *in camp*.

Spearhead

Jairzinho is, unhappily, not sufficiently skilled all-round to be the central spearhead and in all probability he will revert to his 1970 role on the right wing. There he could be a real force again, but who to play up with him?

The Brazilian championship of 1973-74 threw up several previously unknown contenders as well as underlining that the Palmeiras star Leivinha is back to his form of 1972 when he excelled in the Mini-Cup staged in Brazil. It may be that as with many other South American stars, his skill doesn't travel well, but all the indications are that he was merely out of touch during the 1973 tour. At all events he is now back in the reckoning and at his best he could be the ball-holding, chance making, goal-scoring centre forward that Brazil so badly needs.

Should Leivinha fail, or should Zagalo opt for three up then the possibles are Mirandinha (Sao Paulo FC), Eneas (Portuguesa de Desportes) or a highly praised young man from Fluminense, Antonio Manfrini. With Leivinha, this trio carries the great part of Brazil's hopes for if the defence can prevent most games from being lost, someone must get the goals without which they cannot win.

Yugoslavia made a big impression in their play-off game against Spain, underlining the fact that they can attack as well as defend and have some very skilful players.

GROUP TWO

Brazil Yugoslavia
Scotland Zaire

Preview by Eric Batty

WM 74

With former Red Star manager Miljan Miljanic taking over after the 0-0 game at home to Spain in Zagreb last autumn Yugoslavia, could be both a very exciting team to watch and also an outsider to reach the final.

In past competitions of recent years the Yugoslavs have suffered because their transfer regulations allow players to go abroad and play in Western Europe. Some time ago a new minimum age (28) was introduced before which players cannot go and thus the Yugoslavs are now able to field a reasonably experienced team. Essentially however, the team is far from old.

Against Spain, the Yugoslavs were without one of their best players, Dusan Bajevic who, having been sent off in the final qualifying game against Greece, was suspended for the Spain play-off and will also miss the first match in the competition proper. After that, however, he should regain his place even though his understudy, the 20-year-old Ivan Surjak, did remarkably well against Spain. Surjak, in fact, plays on the left for his club Hajduk Split and therefore represents a threat both to Bajevic and to the captain, left winger Dragan Dzajic, Yugoslavia's most capped player of all time.

In goal they have Enver Maric, who is one of Europe's top goalkeepers. He played impeccably against Spain, just as he did in mid-1973 when Yugoslavia beat West Germany (in Germany) by 1-0 . . . even saving a penalty. In front of Maric are questions for against Spain, Yugoslavia were without two star full backs—Peter Krivokuca (Red Star), and Dragoslav Stepanovic (OFK Beograd). This pair are brilliant, sound in defence, highly skilled . . . and very, very good going forward. Against Spain, Buljan and Dladziabdic did extremely well and may be preferred though I would go for Krivokuca and Stepanovic.

Confidence

For the vital twin stopper roles there are automatic choices, the big determined Josip Katalinski who went up to score the vital qualifying goal against Spain and the very gifted 'Beckenbauer-style' *libero* Vladislav Bogicevic. The latter plays so much like Beckenbauer and with such skill and confidence for a player with only seven caps, one feels that it would be more corect to say now that Beckenbauer plays like Bogicevic!

In midfield Jovan Acimovic is a certain choice. Lining up at inside left he is the midfield general, a player of immense skill and an impeccable ability to screen the ball (with his body) from opponents—perhaps the most gifted Yugoslav since Dragoslav Sekularac. Acimovic is everywhere, picking up clearances, intercepting the enemy's passes and then beating men *en route*, purveying splendid passes to all ahead of him.

Sharing Acimovic's duties in midfield will probably be Stanislav Karasi his Red Star club-mate who has improved enormously in the last 18 months. The other place in the midfield trio could be a choice between Brako Oblak who did the job in Frankfurt or perhaps left back Stepanovic who had a great game almost two years ago when Yugoslavia drew 1-1 with England at Wembley and he did the midfield job.

In attack there are choices, but only one certainty—right winger Ilija Petkovic who left OFK for the French club Troyes last summer and is the only 'foreigner' in the squad. Pethovic is something of a talisman, a good-luck charm for the Yugoslavs. In the centre there is a straight choice between Surjak and Bajevic (after his ban) and on the left wing there should be Dragan Dzajic. He, however, has not really recovered his confidence since breaking his left leg more than a year ago and Surjak could switch to the left when Bajevic can play.

Experience

Zaire have their stars, too, particularly the centre back Bwanga who also plays the attacking *libero* game. However, though not so young, the 'Leopards' lack experience in European conditions and against European teams and though I expect them to show a considerable degree of skill I cannot imagine them winning even once.

It should be Brazil and Yugoslavia who qualify but Scotland could with the permission of the referees cause an upset and get through.

They shouldn't but they might—as much depends on the referees as on the Scots. I expect Willie Ormond to base his team on Peter Lorrimer (Leeds) on the right wing backed by Bremner; Coventry's Tommy Hutchinson on the left—with the support of Eddie Gray (Leeds) if he is fit again in time. Denis Law will probably be in the centre but at his age should be used sparingly, either going on as substitute or being taken off after games have been won to give way to Joe Jordan (Leeds).

Scotland's big problems are in defence for with Holton in the back four he must scare his colleagues as much as any opponent. But if Scotland don't concede too many goals (they should get off to a good start against Zaire) they could cause an upset. However, I expect Brazil and Yugoslavia to qualify from this group though not before Scotland have given them both a bruising time.

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FEBRUARY 26

TUNIS: East Germany beat Tunisia 4-0 in a friendly match here tonight. East German goalscorers were: Ducke (17), Frenzel (37), Loewe (70) and Dorner (76).

FEBRUARY 27

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Cabinet tonight awarded 25,000 Lebanese pounds (about £4,000) to the Nijmeh club following their 1-0 victory over Soviet champions Ararat Yerevan here last Sunday. The award was made as "encouragement" to the Nijmeh club and Lebanese President Suleiman Franjieh said he would also present medals to the club's players and officials.

Former England captain Bobby Moore was transferred in March from West Ham United to Fulham for a fee of £25,000. Moore, who has won a record 108 caps for England, joined West Ham from school and led them to victory in the FA Cup in 1964 and European Cup Winners Cup in 1965.

BASLE: FC Basle (Switzerland) beat Celtic (Scotland) 3-2 in a European Cup quarter final tie here. Hitzfield (28, 63 pen) and Odermatt (31) scored for Basle; Wilson (21) and Dalglish (59) for Celtic.

TARANTO (Italy): East Germany beat Italy 1-0 in the first leg of their European Under 23 championship quarter final match here. Hafner scored for Germany in the 86th minute. The return match is on April 17.

FEBRUARY 28

ALGIERS: East Germany beat Algeria 3-1 at the artificial turf 70,000-seat stadium here tonight. The East German goals were scored by Streiche (11), Vatorie (15) and Loewe (68). Griche scored for Algeria in the 63rd minute.

ALGIERS: Robert Gadocha scored a hat-trick for Poland against a Yugoslavian Olympic team in a friendly here. Poland led 1-0 at half time. Deyna and Bozovic (own goal) were the other goalscorers.

MARCH 1

CAIRO: Egypt beat Uganda 2-1 in the opening match of the African Nations' Cup finals here. The half time score was 1-1.

MARCH 2

CAIRO: Zambia beat the Ivory Coast 1-0 in the African Nations' Cup. Kaushi scored in the fifth minute.

MARCH 4

CAIRO: Egypt beat Zambia 3-1 in an African Nations' Cup match here today. They led 2-1 at half time. In another group "A" game, played in the Delta town of Mehalla, Ivory Coast and Uganda drew 1-1. The Ivory Coast led 1-0 at half time.

HAMBURG: Hamburger SV beat Glasgow Rangers 3-0 in a friendly here after leading 2-0 at half-time. Hoenig (7), Heese (10) and Winkler (89) were the scorers.

MARCH 5

BELFAST: Borussia Moenchengladbach (West Germany) beat Glentoran (N. Ireland) 2-0 in a Cup Winners Cup quarter final here. Borussia led 1-0 at half-time. Heynckes and Koppel were the scorers.

BELGRADE: Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) lost 2-0 at home to Atletico Madrid in a European Cup tie. Luis and Garate were the scorers for Madrid who led 1-0 at the interval.

TRNAVA: Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia) and Ujpest Dozsa (Hungary) drew 1-1 in the European Cup. Kabat scored for Spartak in the first half; Toth for Ujpest in the second.

LISBON: Sporting Lisbon cruised to a comfortable 3-0 victory over FC Zurich (Switzerland) in the Cup Winners Cup. Nelson, Marinho and Yazalde (pen) scored the goals in the second half.

STUTTGART: VfB Stuttgart (West Germany) beat Vitoria Setubal (Portugal) 1-0 in a UEFA Cup match. Stickel scored in the 70th minute.

CHORZOW: Joachim Marx scored a last minute goal for Ruch Chorzow (Poland) in their UEFA Cup match here against Feyenoord (Holland). Feyenoord had previously scored through Schumacher in the 77th minute.

CAIRO: Zaire were beaten 2-0 by the Congo in an African Nations' Cup match. Zaire led 1-0 at the interval. Guinea beat Mauritius 2-1 after trailing 1-0 at half-time.

MAGDEBURG: Two goals in three minutes midway through the second half gave FC Magdeburg (East Germany) a 2-0 victory over Stara Zagora (Bulgaria) in the Cup Winners Cup. Hermann put the East German club ahead and Mewes headed the second.

MUNICH: Bayern Munich beat CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) 4-1 in their European Cup match here tonight. Bayern led 2-1 at half-time. Torstensson (8), Beckenbauer (33), Muller (65) and Torstensson (88) were the Bayern scorers. Maraschliev (23) scored for CSKA.

MOSCOW: Konstantin Beskov, 54, has replaced Evgeny Goryansky as senior coach of the Soviet Union football team. Beskov played in Moscow Dynamo's forward line from 1941-45, and since 1957 has been coaching at the Moscow youth football school. Beskov has also coached Torpedo (Moscow) and Locomotive (Moscow).

MARCH 6

CAIRO: Egypt beat the Ivory Coast 2-0 with goals in the first and last minutes. Shazli scored the first and Ali Khalil the second. Zambia beat Uganda 1-0. An own goal by Ugandan right half Kerunda in the 20th minute settled the match.

MARCH 7

CAIRO: Congo drew 1-1 with Guinea and Zaire beat Mauritius 4-1. Kako opened the scoring for Zaire (15) and Mayenga scored two before the interval. N'Daye added the fourth.

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina today added eight players to its squad for the World Cup finals. Team manager Vladislou Cap said another 18 players would be named later to bring the squad up to 40

WIN THE NS CUP

from which the final 22 would be chosen. The eight named were: Ruben Glaria, 25 (San Lorenzo), Ruben Pagnanini, 23 (Estudiantes), Jorge Paolino, 24 (Racing), Victorio Cocco, 27 (San Lorenzo), Carlos Squeo, 25 (Racing), Santiago Santamaria, 23 (Newell's Old Boys), Osvaldo Potente, 22 (Boca Juniors), Ruben Cano, 23 (Atlanta).

MARCH 7

DRESDEN: East German star Hans-Juergen Kreische celebrated his return to the game after five months on the sidelines with two goals in three minutes to help the national team beat Swedish club Oergryte Gotenburg 3-0. Doerner scored the first goal.

MARCH 8

WARSAW: Doctors have declared Polish striker Wlodzimeirz Lubanski fit to resume playing after recovering from a knee injury. Lubanksi, who tore a cartilage during the World Cup game with England in Katowice, will now be available for the finals.

MARCH 9

CAIRO: Zaire reached the final of the African Nations' Cup with a narrow 3-2 victory over Egypt here today. Zaire were trailing 1-0 at half-time and went further behind in the 54th minute. But three late goals took them through. In the other semi final, Zambia beat the Congo 4-2 after extra time.

MARCH 11

CAIRO: Egypt beat the Congo 4-0 (2-0) here today to take third place in the African Nations' Cup.

MARCH 12

CAIRO: Zaire and Zambia drew 2-2 after extra time in the final of the African Nations' Cup. Zambia led 1-0 at half-time but Zaire equalised in the second half to force extra time. Zaire took the lead for the first time in the 118th minute, with Zambia equalising in the last 20 seconds.

ZURICH: FIFA said today it has suspended the national associations of Morocco and Sierra Leone for not paying their subscriptions. Ghana, South Korea, Mali, Mexico, Panama and Senegal have been warned that they too will be suspended unless their subscriptions are paid by the end of the month.

● Continued overleaf

Wolverhampton Wanderers won the Football League Cup Final at Wembey in March, beating Manchester City 2-1 after extra time. Picture shows skipper Mike Bailey being chaired by his team-mates.

Special World Cup issue next month... Gerd Muller in colour plus the best analysis of the finals

Dateline Diary... Dateline Diary... Dateline Diary... Da

Miljanic for Real Madrid

MARCH 13

RIJSWIJK (*Holland*): Holland beat France 2-0 here today in a qualifying group one match in the European Amateur Nations Cup competition. Both goals came in the first half from Hanssen and Splinter.

BUDAPEST: Florian Albert, a dominant figure in Hungarian football for the past 15 years, today announced his retirement as a player and said he planned to go into soccer management. The 33-year-old centre forward, who began his remarkable international career in 1959 at the age of 18, was a key figure in the Hungarian team of the sixties, playing in the 1962 and 1966 World Cup finals in Chile and England. Capped 74 times, the Ferencvaros striker was awarded the "Golden Ball" trophy (European Footballer of the Year) in 1967 and the following year was chosen for a World team to play against Brazil.

SOFIA: Poland beat Bulgaria 2-1 in the quarter finals of the European Under-23 championship. The second leg will be in Poland on April 10. Poland led 2-0 at half-time through Szarmah and Latoz. Hristov got Bulgaria's goal after the interval.

MILAN: AC Milan today beat Paok Salonika of Greece 3-0 in the first leg of their Cup Winners Cup tie. Bigon (12), Benetti (17) and Chiarugi (87) were the scorers.

EAST BERLIN: East Germany beat a defensive Belgium team 1-0 in a friendly international here today. The East Germans stormed the Belgium goal throughout the match but didn't score until the 80th minute through Streich.

MARCH 14

CAIRO: Zaire won the ninth African Nations' Cup with a 2-0 win over Zambia. Zaire led 1-0 at the interval. N. Daye scored both goals.

DEVERNTER (*Holland*): Holland beat Hungary 2-1 (1-1) in a European Under-23 match here today. Notten (37) and Geels (61) scored for Holland; Balint (11) for Hungary. The match was a replay of last night's game which was abandoned in the 25th minute because of bad light with Holland leading 2-1.

ZURICH: A final decision on whether Chile should be compensated for the Soviet Union's failure to play a scheduled World Cup qualifying match in Santiago will be taken on June 6, FIFA said today. It said the ruling would be given by the World Cup Organising Committee meeting in Frankfurt. The Russians refused to play the match in the Chilean capital's National Stadium on the grounds that it had been used as a "concentration camp" for torture and execution during the military coup last September. They were excluded from the competition after a prolonged row. A spokesman today denied a Santiago report that FIFA had decided to support Chile's claim for 150,000 dollars (£62,500) compensation. He said FIFA had advised the Chileans to seek a written answer from Moscow to their claim. This followed the failure of Soviet delegate Valentine Granatkin to turn up at FIFA headquarters here on March 8 to discuss the compensation question with Chilean representative Dr. Juan Goni, the spokesman said.

MARCH 17

MADRID: Yugoslav World Cup team manager Miljan Miljanic today declined to comment on a report that he had signed

A fan clashes with police at the Newcastle United v. Nottingham Forest FA Cup tie which had to be stopped because of an invasion of the pitch by members of the crowd. Forest were leading 3-1 at that stage. The match was later restarted and Newcastle finished 4-3 ahead. The Football Association subsequently ordered a replay at Everton's ground. After a 0-0 draw, Newcastle won a second replay 1-0 to reach the semi-finals.

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Ipswich Town defender Kevin Beattie was named Young Footballer of the Year by the Professional Footballers' Association.

a two-year contract to coach Spain's legendary Real Madrid club. But a spokesman for the club said the signing of Miljanic was "practically a fact". He did not elaborate. The Madrid daily newspaper *As* today quoted Miljanic as saying in Belgrade yesterday he had agreed to train Real Madrid. The Yugoslav refused to disclose the value of the contract but the paper mentioned the figure of 180,000 dollars (£575,000) for the two years. Miljanic, who steered Yugoslavia to the World Cup finals, formerly coached Red Star Belgrade. He declined to discuss the matter with reporters when he turned up here today to watch the local derby between Real and Atletico. Miljanic, internationally recognised as an outstanding coach, was last month given sole control of the Yugoslav national team. He had previously headed a "collective" of trainers running the team. Against expectations Real beat Atletico 2-0.

KINSHASA: Zaire's soccer team were today presented with the country's highest award for winning the African Nations' Cup. The officials and 22 players were made "Knights of the National Order of the Leopard" at a special public ceremony in Kinshasa's May 20 stadium.

MARCH 18

BERNE: Eire has withdrawn from the European Under 23 championship because it found that travelling expenses were too high.

BERNE: UEFA said here today that seven players sent off the field or cautioned twice in European soccer tournaments this season had been barred from the second legs of the quarter final matches. Those suspended are: Plamen Yankov (CSKA Sofia), Francisco Delgardo Melo (Atletico Madrid), Otto Demarmels (Basle), Vlado Hagara (Spartak Trnava), Vojtech Varadin (Spartak Trnava), Carlos Manaca (Sporting Club Lisbon), Wolfgang Abraham (FC Magdeburg).

FORTHCOMING MATCHES

Full Internationals

April

3 England v. Portugal
17 Brazil v. Rumania
17/20 West Germany v. Hungary
27 Czechoslovakia v. France

May

1 West Germany v. Sweden
1 Switzerland v. Belgium
11 Wales v. England
11 N. Ireland v. Scotland
15 England v. N. Ireland
15 Scotland v. Wales
18 Scotland v. England
18 Wales v. N. Ireland
19 France v. Argentina
22 England v. Argentina
29 East Germany v. England

June

1 Bulgaria v. England
5 Yugoslavia v. England

WHAT'S FROM A

EX AFRICA, semper aliquid novum. **Out of Africa, as Pliny told the Romans, there's always something new. In terms of football, the newest team is Zaire, the newest player a Benfica forward from Angola, the 19-year-old Jose Pedro, latest contender for the mantle of Eusebio.**

In Dortmund on June 14, Zaire sally forth to play Scotland in their opening World Cup match; the first genuinely African team playing the first match in the finals of the competition. Morocco, the only other qualifiers from an all-African group, may be more strictly qualified as Arabian. The factor that links the two teams is that the remarkable Blajkoc Vidinic, once Yugoslavia's tall goalkeeper is the manager responsible for getting both of them to the final stages.

Morocco acquitted themselves quite well in Mexico, giving the West Germans a considerable fright in their opening match. I would hazard that Zaire have a much more talented team. Whether they will be as good, for all that, is wholly another question; and therein lies the whole paradox of African football.

Classically and almost inevitably, the parts are greater than the whole. If you added together the individual talents produced by Africa over the years, what a magnificent array you would have! But these fine individuals have, indeed, had to come out of Africa to express themselves. Would Eusebio and Coluna ever have been the same players, the stars they so indubitably were, had they stayed in Mozambique?

Notable

What would we have heard of Salif Keita, the present Valencia centre-forward, regular scorer of notable goals, had he stayed in Mali? What would have become of Marius Tresor, the best French international footballer of his day, had he remained on the island of Guadeloupe, instead of travelling to the island of Corsica? And now, after long years of hesitation, years of continued courting, perpetual offers, here is the splendid Laurent Pokou in France, playing for Rennes, having established himself so imposingly on the Ivory Coast.

We have already heard much about the Zaire team and its talents. Unfortunately, we have also heard about the bewilderingly haphazard organisation of the Zaire Federation. In 1970, Zaire didn't even compete in the World Cup . . because the benighted Federation forgot to send their application in on time.

Much more recently, last February, to be precise, 80,000 spectators waited eagerly in the main Kinshasha Stadium to see a match between Zaire and Yugoslavia's Zeljeznicar club—which didn't take place. The Yugoslavs were coolly informed of the fact while they were preparing in their hotel.

It is fairly clear that the Zairean Federation is not yet worthy of the Zaire national team; that it needs, but will doubtless never get, a Vidinic of its own.

No wonder the intelligent Laurent Pokou gives lack of organisation as one of the three great problems of African football. The others are lack of money and of facilities.

Revival

Curiously enough, it was precisely by reversing the flow of talent that Zaire became a force in African soccer. In 1966, the Black Star team of Ghana came to Kinshasha and won 3-0. Furious, General Mobutu, the President, ordered that all the Zairean players then with Belgian clubs should return forthwith. They did; and the revival began.

African players have so much to admire about their game, so much to recommend them; as we see in the Negro influence upon Brazilian football, which has been utterly transformed and conditioned by it. African players at their best are gymnastic, exuberant, inventive and, as Pokou says, physically combative. They have made an enormous contribution to the game in Portugal, France and Belgium.

French football has been full of African players for many years. Keita came out of Mali to play for Saint Etienne, where his adaptation to the heavy mud of a French winter was immediate. He spent a season with Marseilles, and now has found a prosperous billet in Spanish football.

Tresor, scorer of a memorable individual goal against West Germany this season, is a defender of splendid versatility, with the contemporary capacity to attack, as well. Pokou celebrated his belated arrival in

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T'S NEW M AFRICA?

France, his home debut for Rennes, with a wonderful winning goal against Lyon.

But African footballers can have brains as well as ability in their feet. I recall Eugene N'Jo Lea from the Cameroons, an excellent centre-forward with Saint Etienne and other clubs, a qualified lawyer, who became President of the French Players' Union, and later came to England, where I came to know and like him, as his country's representative. Later still, he represented them at the United Nations.

The players of the Zaire team sound as if they would, in several cases, do exceedingly well in European football. Bwanga, the centre-half, 24 years old and African Footballer of the Year, has been nicknamed the Black Beckenbauer, for his cool skills and his high versatility.

Kokoto, the striker, scorer of many spectacular goals with his left foot, is an admirer of Johan Cruyff whom Scotland will certainly have to watch closely. Were Zaire to do well in the World Cup, one assumes that their players, who have already been abundantly awarded by the President, would be prohibited from joining those European clubs who clamoured for them. In that case, and were Vidinic prevailed upon to stay in Kinshasha, the team might lead the way to a new era in African football.

Left foot

Portugal, meanwhile, continues to benefit from the endless source of fine players from Angola and Mozambique. Eusebio is unquestionably the finest footballer ever to wear the Portuguese shirt, record scorer in the World Cup of 1966, when he got four in that astonishing quarter - final against North Korea. Coluna was the captain of that team, a muscular, clever player in midfield, with a superb left foot which scored notable goals in the European Cup Finals of 1961 and 1962.

Now there is the leggy Jordao from Angola, a 20-year-old forward of whom we are sure to hear more and more in the years to come, though he has been in and out of both the Benfica and Portuguese teams over the last year or so, a superb runner with an excellent shot. Jose Pedro was discovered by Jimmy Hagan in Angola and is at present warming up in the Benfica reserve team.

In England, black footballers have so far been a little disappointing. Ade Coker of West Ham—a Nigerian—fading after an exciting start, Clyde Best arriving here perhaps a little too late to realise his full, considerable potential.

Those years in the Bermudan national team would have been far better spent learning good habits at Upton Park. But if Britain has been less of a beneficiary than certain European countries, the potential of African football has long been established beyond gainsaying. It remains to be seen whether that potential can be fully harnessed. Roll on June 14, and Dortmund!

Brian Glanville, author of "Goalkeepers Are Crazy" pictured at an autograph signing session along with top goalkeepers Pat Jennings (centre) of Tottenham Hotspur and Bob Wilson (left) of Arsenal.

West Germany and Mueller head charts

by J. RADFORD

WEST Germany have been indisputably Europe's best national side during the 1970s, and with home advantage have been widely tipped to crown their achievements by carrying off the World Cup trophy at Munich's Olympic Stadium on July 7.

But a close analysis of their record suggests that playing on home soil may actually be a disadvantage to the West Germans.

A survey of all competitive matches played by European teams since the beginning of 1970 puts the West Germans clearly ahead of the rest of the field with a staggering success rate of 84.4 per cent, about 12 per cent ahead of second-placed Italy. But West Germany's success has been almost entirely due to their incredible performances on away and neutral ground.

The survey, which omits friendly games, takes into account only World Cup matches—in the Mexico finals of 1970 and the qualifying groups of this year's finals—and the 1970-72 European Championship.

In away and neutral ground matches, the West Germans have won no fewer than 11 of their 12 games, losing only to Italy 4-3 after extra time in that incredible World Cup semi-final in 1970. And it is to these games that the West German owe their achievements of third place in the 1970 World Cup and victory in the 1972 European Championship.

Narrow

West Germany managed to win only one of the four games played on home ground—all incidentally in the European Championship—and that was a relatively narrow 2-0 victory over lowly Albania.

The remaining three—against Turkey, Poland and England—were all drawn. And it's an interesting fact that the West Germans succeeded in beating all these teams in the away legs by at least two-goal margins.

As hosts for this year's World Cup, West Germany have, not had to play any qualifying games, but it's worth noting that since their last competitive match in 1972 the West Germans have lost at home in friendlies against Argentina, Yugoslavia and Brazil—and those three will all be at this year's finals.

In the survey of the 1970s, a group of six top-class European teams lie behind the West Germans with success rates varying between 72.5 and 68 per cent.

Italy, arguably the best team in Europe at present, are predictably at the head of this group. Runners-up in the last World Cup, they suffered a momentary lapse when they were knocked out of the European Championship by Belgium in the quarter-finals but returned to impressive form in winning their World Cup qualifying group without conceding a goal.

Of the other five "top-class' sides, two—the Soviet Union (3rd) and Belgium (7th)—have not qualified for the World Cup this time.

Nevertheless, the Russians well deserve such a high rating. They reached the last eight of the 1970 World Cup, came runners-up to West Germany in the European Championship and won their European qualifying group in the current World Cup. Then, of course, came the regrettable dispute with Chile and the Russians were disqualified.

Neighbours

Belgium succeeded in reaching a highly-respectable third place in the last European Championship and were knocked out of the World Cup—by their neighbours from the Netherlands—in spite of the fact that they did not concede a single goal during their qualifying matches.

Of the other "top-class" teams, the Netherlands and East Germany have begun at last to emerge as leading European nations thanks to some impressive performances in their qualifying groups. Of the two, the Dutch look the more dangerous with an attack which, in a mere 12 games, has scored no less than 42 goals—more than any other nation, which is a remarkable achievement considering that some countries have played up to 20 matches.

Yugoslavia in sixth place have lost only one game—against the Soviet Union in the quarter-finals of the European Championship. The Yugoslavs are a hard side to beat but still have problems in attack as they have scored only 15 goals in 13 games, including an ignominious goalless draw at home to Luxembourg back in 1971.

Between the eighth - placed country, Spain, with a success rate of 63.6 per cent, and the nineteenth, Czechoslovakia with 53.8 per cent, lie a host of countries meriting the description "middling to good".

These include England who deserve to be no higher than ninth following their failure to progress beyond the last eight in the Mexico World Cup and European Championship, and their inability to qualify for West Germany.

Competitive records of European teams 1970-1974

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	%
1	West Germany	16	12	3	1	35	14	27	84.4
2	Italy	20	11	7	2	35	14	29	72.5
3	Soviet Union	19	11	5	3	28	11	27	71.1
4	Netherlands	12	7	3	2	42	8	17	70.8
5	East Germany	12	8	1	3	29	9	17	70.8
6	Yugoslavia	13	6	6	1	15	9	18	69.2
7	Belgium	19	11	4	4	32	12	26	68.4
8	Spain	11	5	4	2	22	9	14	63.6
9	England	16	8	4	4	23	14	20	62.5
10	Switzerland	12	6	3	3	14	9	15	62.5
11	Hungary	17	7	7	3	30	19	21	61.8
12	Rumania	18	9	4	5	36	16	22	61.1
13	Bulgaria	15	7	4	4	29	19	18	60.0
14	Scotland	10	6	0	4	12	10	12	60.0
15	Sweden	16	7	5	4	22	16	19	59.4
16	Portugal	12	5	4	3	20	12	14	58.2
17	Austria	13	6	3	4	29	15	15	57.7
18	Poland	10	4	3	3	16	9	11	55.0
19	Czechoslovakia	13	6	2	5	22	14	14	53.8
20	France	10	4	2	4	13	13	10	50.0
21	Northern Ireland	12	3	5	4	15	12	11	45.8
22	Turkey	12	4	3	5	10	16	11	45.8
23	Wales	10	3	2	5	8	11	8	40.0
24	Norway	12	2	1	9	14	34	5	20.8
25	Albania	12	2	1	9	8	22	5	20.8
26	Irish Republic	10	1	2	7	7	22	4	20.0
27	Finland	12	1	2	9	4	37	4	16.7
28	Greece	10	1	1	8	8	19	3	15.0
29	Denmark	10	1	1	8	4	24	3	15.0
30	Luxembourg	12	1	1	10	3	37	3	12.5
31	Cyprus	12	1	0	11	3	40	2	8.3
32	Malta	12	0	1	11	3	36	1	4.2
33	Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	29	0	0.0

Leading goalscorers.

		Goals	Games
1	Muller (West Germany)	21	15
2	Riva (Italy)	13	17
3	Cruyff (Netherlands)	12	9
4	Bonev (Bulgaria)	10	15
5	Lambert (Belgium)	9	15
6	Dumitrache (Rumania)	8	11
7	Streich (East Germany)	7	8
8	Kreische (East Germany)	7	11
9	Bene (Hungary)	7	14
10	Keizer (Netherlands)	6	8
11	Jara (Austria)	6	9
12	Kocsis (Hungary)	6	12
13	Van Himst (Belgium)	6	18
14	Brokamp (Netherlands)	5	5
15	Bishovets (Soviet Union)	5	6
16	Lubanski (Poland)	5	7
17	Parits (Austria)	5	8
	Sandberg (Sweden)	5	8
19	Boninsegna (Italy)	5	12
	Chivers (England)	5	12
	Kolotov (Soviet Union)	5	12

The nation which ended England's World Cup aspirations, Poland, are a surprisingly lowly 18th in the ratings, mainly because of a poor showing in the European Championship.

An even bigger surprise is Switzerland, who place tenth behind England only on goal average. This position certainly flatters the Swiss who have failed to reach the last eight of the European Championship or qualify for the World Cup. Their exalted position was obtained by some creditable performances in the European Championship when they beat Greece and Malta at home and away and gave England a good run for their money with a draw at Wembley and an unlucky defeat at Basle.

Scotland's fourteenth place, sandwiched between two other World Cup qualifiers, Bulgaria and Sweden, is probably what one would expect of a team which has meandered between brilliance and mediocrity over the past four years. A major problem has clearly been the lack of a settled team, with the Scots using no fewer than 58 players in just ten matches. That compares unfavourably, to say the least, with Italy's 36 players in 20 matches and West Germany's 31 men in 16 games.

Excluding Iceland, who did not enter the last European Championship and

● Continued on page 42

PERSONAL OPINION

No divine right to stay up...

THE divine right theory has reared its unreasonable head again. They say that it would be a tragedy if Manchester United dropped down into the Second Division. A tragedy for whom? For football as a whole, say these myth-creators, who propagate the belief that the demise of a once great club is a catastrophe for all who are concerned with the welfare of the game.

It is true that United have a unique meaning for many people, and it wouldn't be too cynical to suggest that it stems from the Munich plane-crash. The traumatic experience transformed a football club into a national institution, and we all mourned the terrible loss of a number of fine young players, we prayed that time and success would ease the pain, and that United would reach the top once again.

But that was sixteen years ago, and by now, uncritical sympathy should give way to a more sober, rational assessment. Since then, of course, Sir Matt Busby has built around the incomparable Bobby Charlton, one or two (?) brilliant teams, and with Law and Best in the side, they were the greatest crowd-pulling attractions of the post-war era.

Reflected

There is no point in dwelling on the assets of the Manchester United teams since Munich — they have been been written about ad nauseam.

But the present side has no right to bask in their reflected glory and expect special treatment from the Press, not to mention opponents and referees. The sad truth is that the current over-tough style of football is no novelty at Old Trafford.

In our admiration and affection for Sir Matt, we were all inclined to overlook his players' indiscretions, and regarded Bobby or Tony Dunne as the typical Manchester United player. After 'Munich', the "Busby Babes" (tragically) gave way to the Teddy Boys, and such players as Alex Dawson, Pancho Pearson and Stan Crowther were tolerated by an over-indulgent management.

Who could ever forget an F.A. Cup semi-final replay at Highbury, when Tony Macedo was frightened out of his skin by these new fashioned 'Red Devils'. In their wake came such hard men — to use yet another euphemism — as Maurice Setters, Nobby Stiles, Noel Cantwell, John Fitzpatrick and quite a few others, whose names easily escape me.

From such a "tradition", it was a natural progression to Jim Holton and his cohorts.

I have a great deal of admiration for Tommy Docherty; indeed in this column, I have named him as the best manager Chelsea have ever had produced (prior to Dave Sexton), and I understand his predicament. Docherty, not unlike Frank O'Farrell, has been saddled with such exorbitant demands for instant success, that it is no wonder that he has resorted to strong-arm tactics.

To be put in charge of the best supported club in the country, which has a pitifully inadequate playing strength, is an unenviable task. But when Docherty blames the introduction of the three-up-and-three-down promotion system for his troubles, one must take issue with him. Primarily, this long overdue reform was put in operation to increase gate-receipts and stimulate interest up to the last kick of the season.

A 28,000 crowd at a recent West Ham v Birmingham match on an unpleasant February afternoon is ample proof that this original target has been achieved. And I cannot agree with his argument that the game has become ultra-defensive as a direct result of the new system. Football has been ultra-defensive for a long time, and in fact, this season, there is a marked improvement in attitudes.

Infusion

There is an infusion of young, progressive managers in the First Division (Jago, Bond, McMenemy, Milne etc.), who try their very best to provide entertainment. In the recent past, I felt like a condemned man if I had to cover a game featurinf such dull sides as Southampton, Coventry, Norwich, Burnley etc. This is not the case any longer, with one notable exception — Manchester United!

The great entertainers have become the biggest bores of our domestic scene, and precisely because they are wearing the same jerseys as Best (pre-Marbella), Law, Crerand and Dennis Violett used to wear, they are such a depressing sight.

The other fallacious 'divine right' concerns England and the World Cup. pre-Katowicz, the Press wrote about "Munich" as a certain destination for Ramsey's team, and the qualifying competition was viewed as a good humoured training gallop, which has to be played-off in order to give a few "possibles" a run in the national eleven.

Fascination

The subsequent fiasco was discussed with with the same unbelieving fascination as Uri Geller's efforts in bending a fork. Several writers (ghosts and in the flesh) have suggested that the World Cup has lost something because England won't be there, and that we would have probably won it, but of course, Poland have no chance whatever.

This is palpable nonsense. Apart from tour-operators, German pub-keepers and people who had "exclusive" contracts for fringe activities with members of the England squad, nobody (foreigners that is) cared two new pennies whether we qualified or not.

The World Cup remains the premier global tournament, while our international players — as one writer put it — cannot even pass the salt to each other accurately. I do not believe in "divine rights" in any walk of life, and most decidedly, not in football.

Although I must confess that I am susceptible to the "good for the game" daydreams. I was shouting myself hoarse at Wembley last May, because a Sunderland victory was "good for the game"!

I was delighted when Brazil won the World Cup in 1970, because it was "G.F.T.G." And what happened? No other team bothered to copy them. I was happy when Italy beat England at Wembley, because I thought Ramsey would resign, and that is certainly "G.F.T.G."! Well, did he? Perhaps I am just an incurable optimist!

Attack at fault

WITH Anderlecht needing 10 points from six games to make sure of the Belgian championship and likely to get away with even fewer, other interest centred around the friendly international in East Berlin against East Germany.

Once again the defence did well, but there was an absence of penetration in attack; the same fault which undoubtedly cost the Belgians any chance of playing in the World Cup finals. After all they were unbeaten in the qualifying matches and did not have a goal scored against them—even by Holland.

In the match with the Germans it was no surprise that a clutch of Anderlecht players were involved. Led by skipper Paul Van Himst, making his 74th international appearance at the age of 30, Gilbert Van Binst, Jan Verheyen, Jean Dockx, Francois Van Der Elst and Hugo Broos also played.

The last two named were making their international debuts. Van Der Elst was discovered when he was 15 with Eendracht Mazenzek a Fourth Division club, but has already been three seasons with Anderlecht.

Striker

A right wing striker he is still only 19 and as a youth international won a record 18 caps. Centre back Broos came from Humbeek FC in 1970-71 and is not 22 until April.

BELGIUM

Two former Anderlecht players were also in the side—left back Maurice Martens now with RWD Molenbeek and Johan Devrindt. But the most effective forwards with Anderlecht are both foreigners—Hungarian Attila Ladinsky and Rob Rensenbrink a Dutch international. And this just about sums up Belgian scoring power at the moment!

Yet curiously enough the week-end following this disappointing international 31 goals were scored in eight League games—so perhaps it did some good after all.

Kazimir Gazda of FC Wisla of Poland.

BENFICA CLOSE GAP

PORTUGAL

SPORTING Lisbon did themselves a good turn by beating their nearest rivals Porto 2-0 in Lisbon. Benfica took the opportunity to hammer Guimaraes 5-1 and creep into second place themselves. And with a three point gap at the top and six games to play, Sporting look set for the title.

Hector Yazalde, the Argentinian scoring machine of Sporting continues to pile in the goals and is only a couple short of Eusebio's total of 40 gained last season. Yazalde should pass this figure before the end of term and seems almost certain to be selected for the Argentinian World Cup squad.

Recruited

It will not be so much of a disaster if he is not called up from training until late, because there are three of four others likely to be recruited from Spanish clubs.

This would be a blow to Portugal who were hoping that he would become naturalised as a Portuguese.

Vitoria Setubal who were the early leaders of the championship and only started to sag when they curiously enough knocked Leeds United out of the UEFA Cup, are still in fourth place.

At the bottom of the table Oriental, who only came up this term, and Beira-Mar look destined to go down. Oriental lost by four clear goals to Setubal and Beira-Mar by a similar margin at Leixoes.

VETERAN VOGEL STILL IN FORM

EAST GERMANY

EAST Germany's 1-0 victory over Belgium in East Berlin was their 129th international and their 61st victory. Twenty-eight games have been drawn and 40 lost. Their 249th goal was scored by Joachim Streich who was the top marksman in the World Cup qualifying matches.

Statistics apart there was not much to show for things in this game, which was virtually one-way traffic without the Germans able to press home territorial advantage.

Trainer Georg Buschner left out Hans-Jurgen Kreische, who has been back in action in recent friendlies against foreign clubs sides. In his place he used Rudiger Schnuphase, a 20-year-old from Rot-Weiss Erfurt who collected his third cap in the process.

Schnuphase has none of the vision of play that Kreische can bring, but is certainly a promising midfield player who could be knocking on the door of a regular berth if one of the other two midfield men drop out.

One player who did well was veteran winger Eberhardt Vogel, who had a hand in the only goal in his 56th international. And he could get the senior place at the expense of Wolfram Lowe the Lokomotive Leipzig flanker.

Lowe was involved in the incident which led to Ipswich Town captain Mick Mills being sent off in the second leg of their UEFA Cup tie. Leipzig won 1-0 to level the scores on aggregate and the game was decided on penalties, with Lokomotive getting through 4-3 on spot kicks, the winning one coming from Lutz Moldt a second-half substitute.

Aggregate

Magdebourg drew 1-1 away to the Bulgarian side Beroe Stara Zagora and went through on a 3-1 aggregate in the Cup Winners Cup, which makes this look like a good season for East Germany in Europe.

In the championship, Carl Zeiss Jena only have a better goals record to keep them ahead of Magdebourg with Dynamo Dresden just a point away in third place and Vorwaerts Frankfurt a further two behind them.

It was a good week for Moldt, because he opened the scoring for Lokomotive at Jena in a match eventually drawn 2-2. But his team are in fifth place and really out of the championship hunt.

Werner Friese, the Lokomotive Leipzig goalkeeper.

D'Esch clinch title

LUXEMBOURG

JEUNESSE D'Esch have a five point lead at the top of the Luxembourg League table with a game in hand over second placed Spora. As they cannot be caught they are champions again.

Jeunesse dropped six points last season, so far with three games to go they have dropped only four but they are still 19 goals short of the 70 they managed last season.

At the other end of the table it looks bleak for The National with only four points from 20 games and Stade Dudelingen with just eight from one game fewer. Both looked booked for the drop into Division Two.

DOMAZOS CHALKS UP 400th GAME

GREECE

MIMIS Domazos, the Panathinaikos and Greek international midfield schemer, recently played in his 400th game for the club. A fine club man who led the side when they reached the 1971 European Cup Final at Wembley against Ajax Amsterdam, he has played in well over 30 matches for his country, too.

Unfortunately he does not seem likely to figure in a championship winning team this season because Olympiakos Piraeus are still going great guns at the top of the table, unbeaten in 23 games and having dropped only five points. They have a five point lead over Panathinaikos who nevertheless had a good 1-1 draw away to the leaders recently.

Only Aris Salonikia have much chance among the other teams and they are third with an inferior goals record to Panathinaikos with the same number of points.

Olympiakos have piled up 76 goals, too, and only conceded nine in the process and with 11 matches still to go they must still be firm favourites for the title which if they win it will be their 19th. Last season they won it for the first time in six years, but they look good for several more seasons on this form.

VIDINIC C
ZAIRE WIL

PETER LEHOLA was in Egypt for the African Nations Cup. He sends this report on The Leopards three months before the World Cup

ON MARCH 14 The Leopards of Zaire won the African Nations Cup in Cairo and in just a few weeks they will be in action in West Germany in the World Cup Competition.

I went to the 9th Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt specially to watch the Zaire Team. And so did others: Willie Ormond, the Scottish national team manager was there. Sir Stanley Rous, the FIFA President was there. Joao Havelange of Brazil was there, and scores of Pressmen and television and radio crews from France, Britain, and West Germany and of course, Africa.

Potential

Willie Ormond and his party of Scottish journalists made it absolutely plain that they were there to assess the potential of the Zaire team. They travelled to the Delta city of Damanhour on Sunday, March 3 to see Zaire play Guinea. They were at the Zaire/Congo-Brazzaville match in Alexandria on Tuesday, March 5 and at the Zaire-Mauritius clash at Damanhour on Thursday March 7.

It was after Zaire lost 2-1 to Congo-Brazzaville that a report appeared in London quoting Willie Ormond as saying that if Scotland didn't beat Zaire by more than two goals in their first encounter he would send his boys home.

Asked about this in Egypt during the competition, Willie Ormond said that he was misquoted. But he did say to a colleague of mine that he did not see anything to give him sleepless nights.

Reaction

I mentioned this to Blagoye Vidinic, the Yugoslav born Zaire trainer. His reaction was that while Willie Ormond was entitled to his opinion, he, Vidinic, didn't think much of Scotland as a world class national team: "In the history of the championship of the world, Scotland hasn't got a special place like England, like West Germany, like Yugoslavia, like Brazil. Scotland, for myself, after information, has the same position as Zaire in this competition."

Vidinic did emphasize that he didn't wish to minimise the quality of Scottish football as such, but as a national team, he said, they did not have the status of West Germany or Brazil, and it was rather impertinent for people to talk of Zaire in the way they did.

I asked Vidinic why Zaire lost to Congo-Brazzaville. This was his reply: "Before coming here, my team didn't have special preparations for this competition. My team has had a very long season of competition —about 24 months—in the African qualifying competitions for the World Cup.

They played their last game in the World Cup qualifying series on December 9, 1973. After one month they were here to play in the Nations Cup tournament. In 1973 they played in the Qualification for the World Cup, the Qualification for the African Nations Cup, and the bulk of the team members played in the Africa Cup of Club Champions.

"You have 26 games in a year. I mean, it's too much for amateur players like the players of Zaire."

Impression

But then, I asked Vidinic how far he thought Zaire would go in the World Cup. He reply: "I had great pleasure in coaching Morocco in the World Cup in 1970 in Mexico. I think my present team, like Morocco in 1970, will make a good impression in West Germany. You know, the World Cup is a unique competition.

"You have so many problems in this kind of competition. You also have big surprises. I think my team will do well. And I wish to tell everybody who will be playing Zaire—from Brazil to Yugoslavia and Scotland—you will find it difficult to walk over Zaire."

Programme

Vidinic then told me what Zaire will be doing between now and the World Cup Tournament. Firstly, he said, they are definitely not coming to play in Britain as some papers have reported: "Definitely my team is not going to play in England. Maybe the people of the (Zaire) Federation have this information. But the people of the Federation don't make the decision about playing in England outside my opinion. I can't change my present programme."

I asked him what his programme was. He said that after a fortnight of vacation after the African Nations Cup, they would play four friendly matches in Zaire. On the first of May they leave for Europe and will have thirteen days of preparation for series of matches. On May 21 they play a match against Fiorentina. On May 25 they have a game against Roma. And their third, and final, game is on May 29.

They will then leave for West Germany. Finally, who will be in the Zaire team at the

CONFIDENT
LL DO WELL

The Zaire national squad.

World Cup Tournament? Well, these are the young leopards, according to Vidinic!

1. Kazadi Mwamba (Goalkeeper)
2. Mukombo Nel Mwanza (Defence)
3. Lobilo Boba (Defence)
4. Bwanga Tshimen (Defence)
5. Mwepu Illunga (Defence)
6. Mana Mambwene (Midfield)
7. Kibonge Mafu (Midfield)
8. Kakoko Etepe (Forward)
9. Mayanga Maku (Forward)
10. Ndaye Mulamba Mutumbula (Forward)
11. Kembo Uba Kembo (Forward)

Vidinic added: "The best player of the team is not here. He is the centre forward Ntumba Kalala, one of the best players in Africa at the moment. He is at present undergoing an operation. But everything's going O.K. After four weeks Ntumba will be in the team."

Having seen Zaire play throughout the African Nations Cup Tournament, I must say I was quite impressed by them. Not because they look like being the best team in the world. Far from it. They may not even go beyond the first round in West Germany in June.

But they are, definitely, the best Africa can offer. And it's not a bad offering. Zaire play attractive, entertaining football. As I sat there, watching them ring circles round their opponents, the first British club team that came to mind was Leeds United.

They play as a team, and are good at it. They also have star players whom the West German crowds will come to love. Super players like Lobilo Boba in defence, and forward striker Ndaye Mutumbula, their very, very fast goal-snatcher, who will be the man to watch.

The Leopards—not the best in the world, but a most attractive offering to World Soccer by Africa.

INTERVIEW WITH PETER DUCKE (East Germany)

We can do well in World Finals

QUESTION: For the first time in World Cup history, East Germany has qualified for the Finals. How did this success come about?

ANSWER: Well, without devaluing our triumph, I must admit that we were comparatively lucky with our group. The only country we had to worry about was Rumania, and even they are not the force they were say four years ago.

As for Finland and Albania: these matches proved more difficult than we first thought in the sense that we had to score as many goals as we could—we certainly couldn't afford to relax even though the opposition was pretty weak.

Our coach told us before each game with both Albania and Finland, that we had to forget how weak our opponents were as goals difference could in the end decide who went to Munich.

And this attitude of treating each tie with equal importance was I think our main asset.

In the qualifying group you'll have to do well against West Germany in order to reach the quarter-finals . . .

Obviously a good performance against our German neighbours should ensure us a place in the last eight. But, you know we must not forget that even though on paper Australia look to be the weakest side in our group, we have got to adopt the same attacking policy towards them as we did against Finland in the qualifying stages.

Do you think an East Germany v. West Germany Final is likely to occur?

I suppose on present form it looks very unlikely, but we're not going to Munich just for the ride.

We'll be out there doing our utmost to reach the Final, and I will say this: If the two Germanys do clash in the Final, it could do a lot to improve the already improving relations between our two countries.

I say this because unlike many international sides in the game to-day, we both have an extremely sportsman-like approach.

What kind of support do you expect to receive from the West German fans?

Judging from the tremendous reception we got during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, an extremely good one. You know, I think there is a very similar parallel between Germany and Ireland.

I am sure that if Northern Ireland were involved in a tournament in the South, they would be urged on by the Southern Irish supporters with almost as much vigour as if their own team were in fact playing.

East German football is noted for its defensive attitude. Are you going to use the same tactics in Munich?

This view of our tactical philosophy is, in my opinion, totally unfounded. I suppose you could say that I am being biased. But just look at the facts. In our six qualifying games we scored 18 goals.

Surely an average of three goals per game is hardly the record of an ultra-defensive side!

In 1969 you broke your right leg and despite what the doctors said at the time, five months later you were back playing first-class football . . .

Like any sportsman who has suffered a serious injury, I went through a period of psychological disruption when I returned to the soccer arena.

But as soon as I started full-scale training I kept telling myself that if I wanted to regain my place both at club and international level, I had to push the worry of my broken leg completely out of my mind.

Of course, at first I found this an almost impossible task, but as I became fitter I became more confident, and I must say that once I had crossed the vital first hurdle of playing competitive soccer again, my form soon returned.

Your career has been a successful one: East Germany's Footballer of the Year in 1971 and over 60 caps for your country. Now 32, how do you see your future?

Obviously at the age of 32, which by football standards is a real veteran, I have got to think seriously about retiring soon.

After all that is only being realistic. But the fact that I am about to play in the World Cup Finals for the first time in my career has led to a kind of reassessment of the situation.

If we can do well in Munich, which I am convinced we can, then I certainly won't even consider retiring until at least after the next European Championships.

Apart from doing well in Munich I haven't really thought about my future, because I believe wholeheartedly that to succeed in this game you've got to think of only one thing—now!

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Bill booked for life at Anfield

Liverpool manager Bill Shankly.

WILLIAM Shankly, by all the graces, may finally decide to turn a broad back on the removal man, and continue spending the rest of a tremendous soccer life as an Anfielder.

That's great news for Merseyside, and has been made possible by the board wisely recognising fantastic services over the last fifteen years with the offer of a new contract for life.

It could provide a mighty and approving choir of adulation from the famous Kop, which has for so long idolised this architect of a club plucked from almost mediocrity, and developed into a world power.

Everything depends, however, on Nessie, the better half. I've no doubt her husband would readily sign a new and lasting agreement, but, as the boss himself says: "I need to talk it over with her, and she'll have the last word."

Elder statesman among his own kith and kin, this tough and wily old Scot has fully proved personal effort and ability by keeping his head while many others around have been losing theirs.

That may smack of loose description, yet it is a woeful fact, none the less, that while Shankly's been shaping Liverpool's future almost every other club in the Football League has changed its manager.

The hot seat mortality rate is a dreadful slur on the sport. Just one decade underlines that depressing point, though it is actually fully emphasised by the number of departures in merely the last five years. Believe it or not, the tally is eighty-two.

by Eric Thornton

And not all are in the lower regions. For movements have affected such reputable outfits as Everton, Manchester United, Sheffield Utd, Derby County, Coventry City, Burnley, Birmingham City, Manchester City, Leicester City, West Bromwich, Cardiff City, Sunderland, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday, Blackpool, Middlesbrough, and so on.

All of which provides an entrance for Joe Mercer, himself a Merseysider of note. He suggests rather facetiously that there ought to be a special period for sacking managers, just as there is for shooting grouse.

Bottom

Shankly, of course, is fully primed about insecurities, just as he's quite aware of the differing life of the top and bottom clubs, having moved among the poorer brethren before learning how the rich live.

The former Preston and Scotland wing-half had spells in charge of Carlisle, Grimsby, Workington and Huddersfield before joining Second Division Liverpool in December of 1959, and taking them back into the top circle within three years.

Life taught him the battle for survival from early days as the fourteenth member of an Ayrshire mining family, and then the need to fight for a spot in a North End line-up of Scots, way back in the thirties.

Those were the days immediately following the era of Alec James, when, on one occasion, *nine* Scots were in the league team, and every time an express train from over the border steamed into Preston station the fans used to quip: "Here comes another new player."

Shankly's record with Liverpool, even before starting this winter's chase after the elusive League and Cup "double", has been nothing short of amazing. My records show that only Matt Busby won more prizes during his managership of Manchester United, and that was over a period of twenty-two years.

Since moving over The Pennines from Yorkshire, the Anfield chief, who set out on the glory trail with a Second Division triumph, has also won the League championship three times, been narrowly beaten into second place on another occasion, carried off the F.A. Cup on the first of two Wembley appearances, and reserved a place for his team in European soccer in ten successive seasons.

Unlike those managers who write their own death warrants by failing to recognise the passing of time, he remodels immediately the signs indicate the likely ending of a career. He has broken up and rebuilt several teams, and won't hesitate to do it again whenever the necessity arises. Which is probably why he's kept his head!

ARTHUR ROTMIL looks at Yugoslavia

SO MUCH CLASS AND ABILITY

YUGOSLAVIA became the 16th and last country to qualify for the World Cup finals, when they beat Spain in their group play-off by 1-0 in Frankfurt. But the six-man selection committee who plotted this triumph was, as arranged, automatically dissolved immediately after the match! Thus, one of the strongest national teams in the world was left, temporarily without a manager—and this only three months before the world series was due to begin in West Germany on June 13. To understand how such a bizarre situation was allowed to develop, one would have to go back and examine at length a chain of events which culminated in the resignation of the previous team manager Vujadin Boskov.

It suffices to say, that he, like his predecessor Rajko Mitic, finally capitulated in face of the constant stream of criticism, humilations and interference from officials, which only a man totally committed to his own ideals, oblivious of any amount of abuse and determined to get his own way could have survived.

With the final group match against Greece in Athens still outstanding, the Yugoslav F.A. managed to persuade some of the top coaches in the country to form a consortium who assumed responsibility for the preparation of the national squad. Boskov's right hand man Milovan Ciric and his assistant Ivan Toplak, who are both employed as coaches by the FA, together with club managers Miljanic, Ribar, Revac and Ivic, formed this "brains trust".

Lucrative

The Six had basically equal powers, but the man wielding slightly more influence was the Red Star chief Miljan Miljanic. Directing operations from the touch line was Ciric. But with their task accomplished, following the victories over Greece and in the play-off against Spain, the committee returned to their respective jobs, leaving the F.A. to find a new manager! Strangely enough, it developed not into a case of who should be offered the position, as rather into who would be willing to accept the task, with all its implications and obstacles as described earlier.

As I write, the Yugoslav F.A. have plumped for Miljanic, who in view of his record with Red Star was really the only logical contender. How he will stand up to the various busybodies in this country remains to be seen. In any case he wanted to lead his club to glory in the European Cup at the same time!

What is certain, however, is the fact that Yugoslavia not only possess a fine national team, but also a depth of talent which few countries can currently match. When one considers, that at least four men who are first choice, were not even playing against Spain in Frankfurt!

And yet, everybody who saw them outclass an admittedly poor Spanish side, has since been raving about the playing potential of the Slavs. I wonder how many British observers and specifically those from Scotland, realised that both Yugoslav full backs Buljan and Hadziabdzic were only playing, because Krivokuca and Stepanovic are injured? Or that the indisposed Pavlovic was missing in midfield, as was centre forward Bajevic, suspended by FIFA for two World Cup games, because he was sent off in Greece?

Marksman

And Bajevic who has been Yugoslavia's most prolific international scorer in recent years and is currently the League's top marksman was substituted by Surjak, who is nominally a winger.

Those Scottish observers who must now be concerned about their country's chances in this World Cup group, which also includes the title holders Brazil, would do well to make sure that they have in fact seen the full Yugoslav assembly in action before the final series. The Slav's success was all the more remarkable since their players were in the middle of the winter break, not having played competitive soccer since mid-December.

Furthermore, four members of the international squad had to receive special leave from the Army to enable them to train with the rest of the candidates for the decisive meeting with Spain. Incredibly, Santrac, Musemic, Pavlovic and the team captain Dzajic, are still doing their military service!

Make no mistake, Yugoslavia will be even better prepared, physically stronger and technically in perfect shape next June. What was seen in Frankfurt were merely a prelude to what can be expected from their highly talented players. In Enver Maric that Slavs can boast of a goalkeeper who must rank among the top six in Europe. The defence will be marshalled by stopper Josip Katalinski, the scorer of the winning goal against the Spaniards.

Franz Beckenbauer, the West German captain. Read a special profile of Beckenbauer in next month's "World Soccer".

Following their exit from the European Cup at the hands of Atletico Madrid, Red Star Belgrade are releasing several players. In June goalkeepers Dujkovic and Racic, defenders Klenkovski, Pavlovic and Dojcinovski, forwards Jankovic, Karasi, Lazarevic, Antonijevic and Dragan Dzajic will be given free transfers. Our picture shows Baralic, Dojcinovski and Dzajic before the match with Atletico in Belgrade. Red Star lost 0–2.

Next to him at centre back, is Bogicevic, who has really come to the fore this season and will perform in the role of a roving *libero*. The outside backs could be Krivokuca, if he recovers from his bad injury in time, or Buljan on the right. On the other flank the same applies to Dragoslav Stepanovic or his capable deputy Hadziabdzic.

In midfield Yugoslavia are well served by the immensely skilful Jovan Acimovic, the ubiquitous Stanislas Karasi and either Miroslav Pavlovic or Oblak who played so well in Frankfurt. Up front, centre forward Dusan Bajevic will only miss the opening game against Brazil, and thus complete his suspension. He will therefore be available for selection against Zaire and Scotland.

Bejevic, who in 1972 scored 15 goals in 12 internationals, is clearly a man all defenders must watch closely. He will be supported by two tricky and orthodox wingers in Ilja Petkovic, who now plays for the French club Troyes, and by the fabulous Dragan Dzajic probably the finest touch line wing forward in the world today.

Spirit

There is a tremendous spirit in the side at present and little wonder since Yugoslavia after some recent disappointments managed to reach the world finals for the first time since 1962. The extremely generous bonus of £1,400 per man, which they collected for defeating Spain, has also helped to patch up some old differences between the international stars and the Football Federation. It was the highest reward ever paid to players in this country, which it will be remembered has only recently introduced professionalism.

The enthusiasm among the Yugoslav public has been truly astonishing. For the Frankfurt play-off the F.A. have received so many applications, that they had to ask the organisers for 32,000 tickets! Adding to that some 10,000 Yugoslavs who are guest workers in Germany and one gets an idea how strong was the support the team enjoyed at Frankfurt's Waldstadion, on that memorable night. And all this points to a tremendous turn out for the World Cup group matches, so the thousands of Scottish fans will not be having it all their own way!

Backbone

The great strength of any national side has always been teamwork derived from several players of one club forming the basis. In this respect, Yugoslavia are most fortunate for the backbone of their team is formed by the brilliant Red Star side who have made such an impact following their triumph over Liverpool in the European Cup. And at least eight Red Star men are currently certain of a place in Yugoslavia's World Cup squad, whilst a minimum of five and possibly even six of them will play in the team.

The programme of the national side, as preparation for the World Cup finals, includes full internationals against Russia on April 17 at home; v. Hungary on May 29 in Budapest; Italy on June 2 and against England on June 5, both at home.

It is interesting to note, that England for instance have a negative record against the Slavs for in ten meetings England have only won twice, drawn four times and lost four matches. But Scotland can now take comfort from the fact, that they have a positive account versus the Yugoslavs. In four games the Scots won 2-0 in Glasgow in 1957, and drawn three times as follows: 1955 in Belgrade 2-2; in 1958 at Vasteras in Sweden (World Cup finals) 1-1, and in 1972 at Belo Horizonte (Brazil's independence tournament) when the score was 2-2.

But the Scots would be wrong to bank on history repeating itself, for after all Scotland have never won a match in the World Cup finals! Yugoslavia have failed to qualify for the last two series in 1966 and 1970, but they have reached the decisive stage for the sixth time now. And so Scotland must know from the present show of strength, that Yugoslavia are a team to be feared and respected. No opposition can be taken lightly in a World Cup tournament, least of all a side as talented as Yugoslavia in whom many, including Sir Alf Ramsey, see the "dark horses" for the world crown.

Three mana changes ir

by PHILIP EVANS

IT HAS been quite a spring for managerial changes. Almost simultaneously Helenio Herrera went into hospital suffering from general debility in the area of his chest and Nereo Rocco finally did what everyone had said he would (and secretly wanted him to) do—resign as coach to AC Milan. Then Giagnoni left Torino after months of struggling with players he wanted to sell last summer. And already the gossip machine has given him a post at San Siro for next season with one or other of the Milanese clubs.

Herrera has been temporarily substituted by Enea Masiero—who performed a similar function at the tail end of last season when Invernizzi was given his cards—and may recover sufficiently to come back next autumn; if he is still wanted.

Rocco, on the other hand, resigned. Unhappy at the club under the directorship of Buticchi, for months forced to make excuses for others, he has finally left a club with which he has been associated for nine years since the beginning of the Sixties; one which in that time won almost every trophy in the book—the Italian league (twice), the European Cup (twice), the Coppa Italia (twice), the Cup Winners' Cup (twice), the so-called Intercontinental Cup. And so forth and so on.

Pragmatic outlooks

Milan have been the Leeds United of Italian football for all that, have many times come terribly close to winning trophies and have failed just to achieve victory. Most memorable was the game at the end of last season when they went down away to lowly Vicenza, whom they should have hammered; and were beaten to the league title by Juventus by default.

And if that is so, there are other parallels including that which tempts one to bracket Rocco to Revie. Both draw the highest admiration and affection from their players; both have highly pragmatic outlooks; both have been able to talk of exceptional players (Rivera on the one side; Bremner and Giles on the other) when the accusations of over-pragmatism have come in.

Tempted back

My suspicion is that Rocco will be tempted back into service, possibly with Torino—a club he knows, and loves, well. Torino is to Turin as Milan is to Milan—if you see what I mean. Juventus and Inter have more of the money, more of the *chic*, more of the clout; but it is Torino and Milan who draw from their respective cities the greatest communal affection. And Rocco is a man who is far from being despotic, rather likes the notion of qualified democracy in the sense of serving and being responsible to others.

Meanwhile the Milan team is being coached by Cesare Maldini, the club's former centre-half and captain at the time of the first victory in the European Cup. He, of course, has the same problems that afflicted Rocco; a defence that has been ingenuous, an attack that scores too few goals, a Benetti on miserable form, a Rivera whose philosophical attitudes tend too often to flood his will to play, a president who is over-defensive and seemingly stubborn.

Milan seem well and truly out of the running for the league title; and now go hard for a place in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup competition. One hopes for them, and that if the goal is reached they play with a little more dignity and a little less idiocy than last year. And one prays that the referee of the game already has a buxom girlfriend, a fast car, a supply of gold watches and cuff links and a friendly travel agent.

Away from trouble and into bliss; and to Lazio who have been having the very devil of a season in the right sense. This despite the enforced absence through injury of Re Cecconi. In fact he is the sort of player who has a rationed number of brilliant games in him for any one season, and the injury might mean that he will return fresh and hungry to the game at the crucial time of the final run-in.

Precious draw

The Roman team have had some good results in these last two months. Four goals against Bologna; three against Vicenza and Juventus; a scrambled and precious draw away to Fiorentina. Chinaglia has established himself as Italy's centre-forward, for the moment; has scored fourteen goals as I write; is chasing Boninsegna hard for the goal-scoring championship. And Garlaschelli has tucked away his share into the bargain; Wilson has marshalled a hard defence; the team as a whole chase everything in sight.

In short they deserve to be in the pole position for the *scudetto* at this stage in the season. Whether the 3-1 defeat at the hands will have set them back too far on their heels remains to be seen. They do have a handful of hard games to get through before they can uncork the champagne.

Juventus remain their closest challengers, with both Anastasi and Altafini scoring the odd, superb goal; with Cuccureddu running and hunting in midfield; with Salvadore managing to get along just well enough alongside Morini to keep the defence in front of Zoff reasonably watertight. Not for one moment forgetting their victory by default of Milan last year, I feel that Juventus will need the hell of a lucky streak to come through and win. But they have the class, and class tells for much.

Napoli are still in the hunt despite the recent away loss to Vicenza. They will miss their powerful young stopper, Vavassori, who was injured in the goalless draw against Sampdoria and will do well to play again this season. Landini, of course, is no fool and has plenty of experience behind him; and their are some goodish players in that Napoli team (such as Clerici, Esposito and Orlandini) as well as on the reserve benches; but they will have to go flat out to compete all the way.

Dovetail well

Inter shot back into the reckoning, if at very long odds, by defeating Lazio. No goals from Boninsegna on that occasion; instead a marvellous performance from Mazzola, back after injury and after two games in which the centre-forward scored five times and led everyone to believe that the two stars of Inter's forward-line were incapable of playing together.

Agreed, they don't dovetail particularly well. But Mazzola is Mazzola; and Boninsegna remains the sharpest of Italian strikers

ageria
n Italy

in the penalty area. To think of some of the so-called "striking" one watches in Britain and then to realise that he will only be a reserve in West Germany. I wonder if at the last he won't force himself back into the team.

Fiorentina chug on, having lost their chances in the space of eight days. That home draw to Lazio; and a defeat away to Napoli by the odd goal in three, with the Neapolitan goals coming five minutes apart from each other early in the first half. The youngsters continue to improve; but the "feud" between De Sisti and Radice continues mutedly and it may be that the waters will part at the end of the season never to meet again.

For those interested in the Antognoni saga, my hero is still passing the ball fifty yards onto a folded newspaper; and all my friends will drink very well should Valcareggi take him to West Germany for the experience. An incipient genius, and not too much of the incipient.

Bologna, Roma, Cagliari and Torino are the more experienced clubs who squat realistically in the middle reaches of the table. Riva has been injured—enough said; Roma have improved enough to climb well and Prati got a couple of goals in a game recently; Bologna have confirmed Pesaola as manager for next season and promised fresh blood—there's an optimist for you; and Torino have been badly shaken by Gaignoni's departure. Guess who's taken over? Edmondo Fabbri, back to where he was not so long ago and with no success.

Down below Vicenza have made a burst with wins on successive Sundays against Milan (away) and Napoli at home. Angelo Benedetto Sormani—another of those seemingly ageless stars—has begun to score goals again. And Ferrante is back after injury—

Capello of Italy.

class player that he is. Below them are Verona, three points adrift; with Sampdoria and Genoa below that.

Some interesting games to come; no comment on the goalless draw between Italy and West Germany except that it might presaged what we shall soon see on the world stage; and advice to all punters. If you have any money left after putting everything on Italy for the World Cup (as I have), take a trip to Genoa. There must be a bone-headed and faithful bookmaker somewhere in that city who'll give you odds against the two local teams playing in the *Serie B* next season.

TWO SAD DEATHS

SADLY, there have been two recent deaths in the football world; or rather, two people distinguished and respected in the game have died. I knew them both, admired them both, and hope I may be forgiven for writing here about them; particularly about Jimmy Hogan. His short obituary in *The Times* was considerably better than nothing, but scarcely did justice to the man's remarkable contribution to the development of world football.

The Times very properly recorded that he was present at Wembley as the honoured guests of the Hungarians when they thrashed England 6-3 in November, 1963; that after the game, they paid tribute to him as the man who had made their victory possible.

It showed an endearingly long memory and an abundant capacity for gratitude. The obituary, however, did not mention that before Hogan ever got to Hungary, he and Hugo Meisl had built the extraordinary Wunderteam in Vienna, the team which might so easily have become the first from Europe ever to beat England at home, 21 full years before Hungary's success.

He began coaching in Holland, in about 1908. One of his most beguiling anecdotes concerns the day he told his centre-half never to leave the centre-forward. When he was missing from the dressing-room at half-time, he went looking for him, to discover him having a drink in the bar . . . with the centre-forward. "Well, you told me never to leave him!" he said.

It was in Vienna, however, that Hogan found his . . . can we say guru? . . . and made his formidable name. He was summoned—we are still in pre Great War days—by Hugo Meisl, the wealthy young Viennese Jew whose passion was soccer. At his first coaching session, the message did not come across.

Hogan afterwards sadly admitted as much; he was doing and saying what he habitually said and did, but nothing was happening. Hugo Meisl took him aside, they talked intensely for hours, and Hogan emerged a new man; or a new coach, ready to carry the gospel of football on the carpet, football played skilfully the Scottish way, all over Europe.

Fulham, his old club, made him their manager for a while in the 1930s, then sacked him while he lay ill in hospital. Back he went to Austria to work wonders with a half starved amateur Olympic team, whom he took to the Final of the tournament in Berlin. First, he said, he had to treat their bodies, then their minds. Those were grim years in Austria.

Poor Giuseppe Moro lived nothing like as long as Hogan; he was still in his 50s when he died a lonely, painful death from cancer. His career—or rather, the aftermath of his career—sadly followed the anti-climactic pattern of so many in professional sport. Succeeding as a gifted but erratic goalkeeper, the man who stopped Mortensen's header but let in Billy Wright's fog shrouded lob at Tottenham in 1949, he found no success as a coach. No success in Italy, little when he crossed the sea to Africa.

Brian Glanville

IT'S GOALS THAT COUNT

by Eric Batty

DURING the 1950's when it first became clear that English football was not as good as the English thought it was, the continentals were running riot. Brazil, Hungary, Yugoslavia and many others were proving that they could score goals as well as produce creative, attractive football based on skill.

During the years leading up to this time there had been unpleasant surprises for England and English clubs for the continentals had already demonstrated beyond doubt their superior skills. "Ah," we said at the time, "they can stroke the ball around and do tricks with the ball, but they can't get it in the net. It's goals that count."

These were the words of consolation for disgruntled fans who had been misled for years into thinking that English football was the best in the world. We consoled ourselves with the thought that if we couldn't play so subtly and skilfully, no one could put the ball away as quickly and with as much power as Tom Lawton, Stan Mortenson and many others of that period like Ronnie Rooke, Jock Dodds, Charlie Wayman etc.

Wilf Mannion and Billy Steel hung on for a while to let us pretend that we too had skill and flair, but meanwhile it was goals that counted and we could get them. Then in the autumn of 1953 that was changed in a matter of days. First came the England v Rest of Europe game (4-4) in which Gunnar Nordahl, the widely known and respected centre forward (known even here) of AC Milan and Sweden wore the number 9 shirt. Poor Derek Ufton of Charlton Athletic made his bow at centre half for England and by tight marking Nordahl got pulled all over the place.

With a fifty yard gap between the full backs, Alf Ramsey and Bill Eckersly, the "Rest" ran riot. Bernard Vukas, Branko Zebec, Giampiero Boniperti and Ladislav Kubala (all of whom played centre forward for their clubs at the time) went strolling through the middle, with and without the ball, very much as they liked.

Kubala and Boniperti each scored twice—but they could have had many more. At the other end a substitute goalkeeper and a dreamy right back from Spain combined to give England a sloppy goal and a last minute penalty taken by Ramsey gave England a face saving draw they didn't deserve on the play—or chances.

But still we hadn't lost. That was to come a month later when the Hungarians brought Bozsik, Kocsis, Puskas and Hidegkuti to show us what football was all about. The signs were there even before the match began. Puskas and company did their usual limbering up without the ball and then came balls. Not one (as in England at the time) but half a dozen. Whoof, whoof, whoof, whoof, the shots were whistling into the top and bottom corners like rockets from 25 and 30 yards.

Clearly this lot could shoot—but could they play? History records that they could and did. This was the dawn of modern football, the day England woke up. Hungary won by 6-3 and a few months later in Budapest underlined their superiority with a 7-1 win in the return game.

All of England, nay Britain, was in dismay. The bloody foreigners had learned to shoot. What could we do now? Shoot ourselves and give up football? Take up netball or baseball?

At the time we did the right thing. At the highest level we swallowed our pride, developed a new coaching scheme and tried to catch up. For a while we tried but then something went wrong. Perhaps we realised the gap was too great, that the work involved was too strenuous, that the way back was too long. Whatever the reason we stopped trying to match the continentals and went our own way. WE STARTED WORKING HARDER (WORK-RATE) AND KICKING (GETTING STUCK IN).

Stan Bowles of Queen's Park Rangers in action against Leicester City. Bowles is one of the top marksmen in England.

Foreigners

That seemed to provide the answer for a while. No doubt about it the foreigners didn't work as hard as we did individually and even now they still admire our stamina. More important, the highly skilled artists from abroad didn't like being kicked and the referees didn't stop it. Modern football phase II had arrived. All we needed now was to have the spread of *catenaccio* from Italy and we were off on a world wide epidemic of falling attendances.

Much has happened since those glorious days of 1953-54. The rest of the world, allowing for the fact that they are still more skilled with the ball than are the English (British) were finally kicked (and run) into realising that they had to come some way to meet the England and the Italians.

Now almost everyone has joined in and it's all defensive and much of it pretty nasty. The only wonder is that more legs aren't broken but that certainly cannot be blamed on the referees. Perhaps its the greater quantities of milk youngsters drink these days compared with previous generations.

There must be some explanation for it; it certainly isn't sportsmanship or the rule of Law as operated by referees and not too many managers are very scrupulous about their pre-match instructions regarding opponents' star players. Perhaps the answer

	Games	Goals	
Martin Chivers	21	11	0.52
Joe Royle	2	1	0.50
Francis Lee	10	4	0.40
Geoff Hurst	8	3	0.38
Allan Clarke	13	5	0.38
Mike Channon	9	1	0.11
Rodney Marsh	9	1	0.11
Tony Brown	1	0	0.00
Kevin Hector	2	0	0.00
Kevin Keegan	2	0	0.00
Malcolm Macdonald	4	0	0.00
Peter Osgood	1	0	0.00
John Radford	1	0	0.00
John Richards	1	0	0.00

	Matches	Goals	Goals per cent per game
Hughie Gallacher (Scotland)	18	24	1.33
Gunnar Nordahl (Sweden)	33	43	1.30
GERD MULLER (West Germany)	50	62	1.24
Steve Bloomer (England)	24	28	1.16
Sandor Kocsis (Hungary)	68	75	1.10
Erich Probst (Austria)	20	22	1.10
PELE (Brazil)	93	96	1.03
Just Fontaine (France)	29	30	1.03
Ferenc Puskas (Hungary)	88	85	.96
Tommy Lawton (England)	25	23	.92
Faas Wilkes (Holland)	38	35	.92
Stan Mortenson (England)	25	23	.92
LUIGI RIVA (Italy)	40	35	.87
Alfredo Di Stefano (Argentina & Spain)	37	29	.78
Jimmy Greaves (England)	57	44	.77
WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI (Poland)	67	46	.61
HANS-JURGEN KREISCHE (East Germany)	40	24	.60
Trefor Ford (Wales)	38	23	.60
DENIS LAW (Scotland)	50	30	.60
GEOFF HURST (England)	49	24	.48
Bobby Charlton (England)	106	49	.46

N.B. Players in BLOCK CAPITALS ARE STILL PLAYING

lies somewhere between the extra milk and the fact that the truly outstanding players go *chicken* very soon after they've made their names and got a few pounds stacked away?

Anyway, almost everyone is now agreed that the game must be played by physically fit, super-trained men who can run for 90 minutes, do Olympic times for 100 metres and can kick (and kick back). It also helps if they can kick the ball more or less where they want it to go, but it does not appear to be essential.

The only trouble with English football at the moment, according to the experts is that we can't score goals. We appear to have lost the knack. According to Sir Alf Ramsey who concedes that he doesn't understand it—we just can't take our chances. We've forgotten how to score goals.

If we look at Table A for a moment—an incomplete but nevertheless rough and ready guide to the top scorers over the years—not by any means complete but more or less representative, it is clear that England never were the best in the world at scoring goals. We just thought we were!

True, Steve Bloomer shows up well but he played all his football more than half a century ago, as did Hughie Gallacher though his career finished later. Amongst the other top scorers of international goals it is foreigners of the last 20 years who predominate and remarkably many of them have figured in the ever tightening defensive games.

Contemporary

By comparison the contemporary England strikers appear to be a particularly inept bunch, but in my view figures can often be totally misleading. I submit that in this case they are and I would cite just one example to back my judgement. Jan Domarski, Poland's centre forward in the vital 1-1 draw against England at Wembley was playing his tenth international and before the kick-off he had never scored. That evening he made his percentage success figure up to 0.10. Just one goal in ten games—but it meant far more to Poland . . . and to England. That one took Poland into the last sixteen.

Scoring figures would be valid if the conditions were always the same. For example . . . taking penalties. On their figures, Gallacher, Nordahl, Muller, Probst, Pele etc must all have scored from every kick they took for their records show they scored more than a goal per game. On the other hand Bobby Charlton would have netted 4.6 times from each ten penalty kicks.

But goals from fixed and consistent situations (like a penalty) are unreal. The realities are . . . tight-marking defenders (the majority of whom commit fouls as and when they can; offside traps, the variable quality of the passes they receive. Here I think we have the answer to Ramsey's dilemma.

He cannot understand why English forwards miss so many chances but as I have said frequently on these pages, you cannot assume that every time the ball is thumped into the enemy penalty area that it is a scoring chance. It is not the quantity of the balls sent flying into the penalty area that matters—but the quality.

So many high crosses are nothing more than goalkeeper's balls. Many more drop in such a way that the defenders have the advantage (even without pushing or holding) and many more sail over the crossbar or beyond the waiting players into the space near the far corner flag.

While we are obsessed with work-rate and ability to win the ball by our midfield players we can never expect our strikers to put goals away. Though no great fan of players like Clarke, Chivers, Channon, Osgood and the like it is clear that they can score goals. They do it quite regularly at club level.

Custodian

But in the international arena the goalkeepers are better—the country's number one—and they make fewer errors than the average custodian. The same applies with the other defenders, who refuse to sell themselves so easily, funnel back better, get tight quicker on the man about to gain possession and generally are far more efficient at their jobs than the average First Division defenders.

To score goals against the best then only the best in the way of attacking play will suffice. This starts with the build-up in midfield, with the ability to pull *good* defenders out of position with feints and by changing the point of the attack.

Then by slipping passes into the path of strikers—superbly timed, perfectly weighted and if necessary *curled round* or chipped over defenders who might by some superhuman effort intercept the ball. All this has to be expected at the highest level of competition.

This is where England fail for even good to average players can put chances away when they are presented with a clear shot and a clear sight of the goal from around the ten yard mark. What is difficult is what Ramsey is asking England strikers to do . . . win fight-balls that are just thumped haphazardly into the enemy penalty area!

If one includes all the appearances and goals since the 1970 World Cup then players like Clarke (0.6 goals per game) and Chivers (0.56) have not done so badly. But these figures include two very unusual matches that were out of character with regard to England. These were the 7-0 home friendly win against Austria—unusual because the visitors were atrociously bad, and the 5-0 win over Scotland early in 1973.

Consistent

That was unusual because the Scots might just as well not have had a goalkeeper, and their overall performance was way below standard. Far better and more consistent was their showing at Wembley later in the year when they were only beaten 1-0.

For this reason I have ignored the England-Scotland 5-0 and the 7-0 win over Austria in compiling the comparative figures for the current England strikers in table B.

Certainly the figures in Table B do not make impressive reading though it should be noted they include appearances as substitutes. However, far from blaming the strikers, I blame Ramsey . . . on two counts.

First he chooses the wrong strikers and more important still, he goes for work rate and ball winning ability in midfield. For as long as I can remember it has been said of football teams—"Show me a good middle line and I'll see a good team."

That's where the problem lies—it's quality that counts.

EUROPEA

CHAMPIONS CUP

compiled

Season	Entries	Result		Venue
1955-56	16	Real Madrid 4	Reims 3	Paris
1956-57	22	Real Madrid 2	Fiorentina 0	Madrid
1957-58	24	Real Madrid 3	AC Milan 2	Brussels
1958-59	28	Real Madrid 2	Reims 0	Stuttgart
1959-60	27	Real Madrid 7	Eint. Frankfurt 3	Glasgow
1960-61	28	Benfica 3	Barcelona 2	Berne
1961-62	29	Benfica 5	Real Madrid 3	Amsterdam
1962-63	30	AC Milan 2	Benfica 1	Wembley
1963-64	31	Inter-Milan 3	Real Madrid 1	Vienna
1964-65	31	Inter-Milan 1	Benfica 0	Milan
1965-66	32	Real Madrid 2	Partizan Belgrade 1	Brussels
1966-67	33	Celtic 2	Inter-Milan 1	Lisbon
1967-68	31	Manchester Utd 4	Benfica 1	Wembley
1968-69	27	AC Milan 4	Ajax 1	Madrid
1969-70	33	Feyenoord 2	Celtic 1	Milan
1970-71	32	Ajax 2	Panathinaikos 0	Wembley
1971-72	33	Ajax 2	Inter-Milan 0	Rotterdam
1972-73	30	Ajax 1	Juventus 0	Belgrade

What really h

at C

by PETER OSGOOD

WHEN it was announced that I had been placed on the transfer list, a great deal of nonsense was written about it in the Press. And I'm afraid that most of what was written not only exaggerated the rift between myself and Dave Sexton, but at the same time probably inflamed the situation.

I say this not as an indictment of soccer journalists in general, most of whom do a really worthwhile job, but because I feel it is about time that the true facts about the whole affair were put on paper. And now, for the first time, I have been given this opportunity.

The most common theory which has been put forward is that from the day Dave Sexton was appointed manager, he and I purely and simply didn't get on. Well, without sounding over-obvious, this is utter rubbish!

Prior to his appointment as Chelsea manager, he was, as you know, extremely successful as senior coach under Tommy Docherty. During his time as coach he gained both the respect and the admiration of literally all the Chelsea players, including myself. And when we were told during the autumn of 1967 that he had taken over from the "Doc", none of us expressed any disappointment or dismay at the Chelsea board's choice.

His arrival brought about a tremendous change in the fortunes of Chelsea. We improved, and improved. So our later successes in the FA and European Cup Winners' Cups came as no real surprise to me.

Without any doubt the Chelsea team of 1969-70 was, in my opinion, even better than we the players realised at the time. The spirit was fantastic, and I am sure I speak for the rest of the lads when I say that all of us would have done anything for Dave Sexton. Yes, the spirit was as good as that.

So, when, you are probably asking, did the friction between Dave and myself start? Frankly, neither of us ever got ourselves involved in petty arguments or feuds. I never lost either my admiration or my respect for him, and he certainly never showed any personal dislike towards me.

The problem was that I thought I should play one way, whereas Dave felt I should alter my style. It is common knowledge that I have always been a great believer in improvisation on the football field—in other words playing the game by ear. This doesn't mean that I don't recognise that all teams need a few triers—you have got to have them if you want a balanced outfit. What I just cannot stick is a set-up with 11 triers. In my view this removes all the excitement from the game.

This, then, was the crux of our disagreement. I felt that our two cup triumphs were built on the ball-playing ability of guys like Charlie Cooke and Alan Hudson. To change this winning formula seemed to me to be a waste of the great playing resources at Stamford Bridge. Basically I was worried that the 1969-71 squad would be destroyed in no time at all.

Of course, to say that my opinions about the future of Chelsea were more profound than Dave's would be a nonsense. But what I do say is this: Once a player and his boss totally, and regularly, disagree on almost every aspect of the game, then there is no

AN CHART

by Jack Rollin

CUP WINNERS CUP

Crowd	Entries	Result		Venue
38,000				
124,000				
67,000				
80,000				
135,000				
28,000	10	Fiorentina 2; 2	Rangers 0; 1	Glasgow/Florence
65,000	23	Atletico Madrid 1; 3	Fiorentina 1; 0	Glasgow/Stuttgart
45,000	25	Tottenham Hotspur 5	Atletico Madrid 1	Rotterdam
74,000	28	Sporting Lisbon 3; 1	MTK Budapest 3; 0	Brussels/Antwerp
80,000	30	West Ham United 2	Munich 1860 0	Wembley
55,000	31	Borussia Dortmund 2	Liverpool 1	Glasgow
56,000	32	Bayern Munich 1	Rangers 0	Nuremberg
100,000	32	AC Milan 2	Hamburg 0	Rotterdam
50,000	27	Slovan Bratislava 3	Barcelona 2	Basle
50,000	33	Manchester City 2	Gornik Zabrze 1	Vienna
90,000	33	Chelsea 1; 2	Real Madrid 1; 1	Athens
67,000	34	Rangers 3	Dynamo Moscow 2	Barcelona
93,500	32	AC Milan 1	Leeds United 0	Salonika

happened
helsea

alternative left open to both parties but to separate.

This, as everyone knows, occurred. But what wasn't publicised enough was that our parting couldn't have been on more amicable terms. I don't hold any grudge against Dave, and I certainly won't ever forget for as long as I live the many memorable times I had at Chelsea. In fact, to say I was depressed at the prospect of leaving Chelsea would be a major understatement.

However, I knew that if I had to leave I would have to join a club with an attacking approach, plus, of course, ambition, something which looked to me to be on the wane at Chelsea. This is why I chose Southampton.

Not one of England's glamour clubs; but the enthusiasm generated by everyone there made me feel even after my first visit that success wouldn't be far away.

Mike Channon, a forward capable of creating so many tangible things out of nothing, has been quite a pal of mine for some time now. It goes without saying that Mike would command a regular place in any International team. He is without question one of the few truly world-class players in England today. So, I said to myself, a link-up with Mike would be just the tonic I needed to regain my confidence.

I have now, therefore, embarked on a new career. The Chelsea episode is now firmly forgotten as far as I am concerned, although I hope I have now cleared up several unexplained facts surrounding my pre-transfer relationship with Dave Sexton.

He knows I did my best for Chelsea at all times. He knows I played my best football under his managership. And I am sure he is a big enough character to bury the hatchet. After all, all we did was disagree about the way I should and should not play—something which happens all the time in professional football!

GIACINTO FACCHETTI answers questions posed by Gregory Tesser

ITALY CAN WIN TITLE!

QUESTION: You have been accused of being too detached during a match, and of not getting sufficiently involved physically. How do you react to these criticisms?

ANSWER: Any criticisms which I have received, and like every professional footballer I've received a great deal, have, as you rightly point out, been directed towards my apparent inability to be able to get really physically involved in a match.

Frankly I find all this mystifying. Throughout my career, both at club and international level, I have never attempted to adopt a more physical approach.

I have always remained a firm advocate of two things in soccer, namely sportsmanship and skill. I leave the tough stuff to the men who have been chosen for that purpose!

In 1972, without warning, you were dropped from your national side, a move which provoked a huge outcry in Italy. Why do you think you were suddenly left out of the international team?

When I heard the news I kept asking myself exactly the same question. The only answer which seemed to make any sense was that at the age of thirty, the Italian manager felt it was about time a younger man was given a chance, which is surely the only way to build up a really strong nucleus of players for the World Cup.

Maybe my style of play was also beginning to worry our boss. As you know in this era of defensive football, an attacking full-back is fast becoming out-of-date.

In 1970 Italy were basically committed to playing defensive football. Do you expect to use similar tactics in Germany?

I know that we were accused of being too defensive, but I honestly don't see why. Against Mexico and West Germany we showed that we could attack as well, if not better, than anyone.

Obviously against such a powerful team as West Germany we had no option but to place a great emphasis on defence. But as we proved in our semi-final against them, our greater defensive awareness didn't mean that we didn't know where the goal was!

I expect that in Germany we'll play as we did so successfully in Mexico. In other words, strong at the back; skilful in midfield; and goal-hungry up front.

The Mexico Final must have been a bit of a disappointment for you. Did you learn something from it?

In retrospect I think I learned one extremely important lesson. As you probably recall, in the Final the Brazilian winger Jairzinho drew me all over the place.

This, of course, prevented me from doing any overlapping, which left the way clear for Brazil's own attacking full-back Carlos Alberto.

I realised full well after the game that if in future I hoped to prevent the same kind of situation occurring again, I had to improve my defensive knowledge.

I think I have now done this, so I won't be unduly concerned about facing Jairzinho in Germany.

What do you think the chances are of another Brazil v Italy Final?

Although I would relish another confrontation between our two countries, I doubt whether it will occur. In my opinion Brazil are now well past their peak, and I am convinced that a European Country will win it this time.

In 1971 you gained your 60th international cap, passing the long-standing record of Umberto Caligaris. Do you think the future will see you breaking other records?

I don't really worry about breaking records—I leave that to the journalists. Obviously my major goal now is to captain Italy to triumph in the World Cup.

But I also intend to continue giving all I've got for my club, as I would dearly love to play in one more European Cup Final before I am forced to retire.

Are you confident that Italy can win the World Cup this year?

In 1970 we reached the Final, and in my view we never played at our best. However, the Italy of 1974 is a very different proposition.

After our victories over Brazil and England, we fear no one. We are also a more experienced squad than four years ago, and as I said before, we now have the perfect blend both in defence and up front.

The conditions will also be more to our liking. So there is no reason I can think of why we shouldn't win the Championship for the first time since 1938.

BASEL SHOW GOOD FORM

ARTHUR ROTMIL reports from Switzerland

SWITZERLAND'S representatives in two major European Cup competitions, the FC Basel and FC Zurich, who have done remarkably well in reaching the quarter-finals, were both eliminated, but not disgraced. Their opponents were after all league leaders of their countries: Celtic of Scotland, who met Basel in the Champions Cup, and Sporting Lisbon of Portugal, who played against Zurich in the Cup Winners' tournament.

When all the circumstances of these encounters have been considered and analysed, the conclusion must be that Swiss clubs, whilst not yet in a position to challenge the best in Europe, can certainly match at least some of the elite clubs.

Basel, for instance, have not played any competitive soccer since December 16, when the programme has closed down for its customary winter break. Yet, the Swiss champions were called upon to meet Celtic on February 27—even before the second half of the season had begun in this country. Because of the famous "Fasnacht", a carnival, in Basel, the European tie had been brought forward a week, but it could not have come at a more inopportune time of the year for the FCB.

Injury

To make matters worse, Basel's redoubtable captain and best player, the schemer Karl Odermatt, could not kick a ball for two weeks, prior to this match, because of a troublesome thigh injury.

Thus Basel's 3-2 victory against Celtic was indeed a triumph and a deserved one at that, if quite unexpected. Admittedly, the Scots were handicapped by the poor form of their reserve goalkeeper Evan Williams, but this should not detract from the fine overall performance of Basel. Their display was all the more remarkable, since the team were at the time lying only eighth in the league, 11 points behind the leaders!

Gallant

Basel's fighting qualities were confirmed in the return at Parkhead in Glasgow, when before a noisy crowd of over 71,000 the Swiss pulled back a 0-2 deficit to 2-2 by half-time. Celtic's 3-2 win after 90 minutes meant extra time, in which the gallant Swiss part-timers simply did not have the stamina to reply to a fourth goal by Murray, which made it 4-2 to Celtic.

But . . . 12 minutes into the second half, with the scores level, Hitzfeld hit a post and only because his team mate Balmer slightly deflected his shot onto the woodwork! Basel would have won through with this goal, for the Scots could not possibly have scored another three goals that would have been needed.

Less dramatic was the tie between Zurich and Sporting Lisbon, the conquerors of Cardiff and Sunderland. The Swiss Cup holders have once eliminated Sporting in a Fairs Cup round of the 1967-68 season. But although they fought hard in the first leg and held the Portuguese champions-elect to a goalless score till the 55th minute, they slumped by 0-3 in Lisbon. In the return Zurich managed no more than a 1-1 draw and they, too, bowed out.

Challenge

In the national championship, however, Zurich continued their unbeaten run which by the end of March extended to 29 points, from 17 games. With Basel having made a wretchedly bad start, there appears to be no other club strong enough to produce a sustained challenge to the runaway leaders, already eight points clear of Neuchatel Xamax.

The semi-finals of the SFV Cup resulted in a farcical situation, which is due entirely to the unfortunate rule introduced this term. The ties Neuchatel Xamax v. Grasshoppers and Sion v. Lausanne were staged on a home-and-away basis, with no extra time in the event of a draw, but with away goals counting double, just like in the European cup competitions.

After both matches had ended 0-0 in the first leg and the return games finished 1-1, it was Xamax and Sion who reached the final having scored away! Neither team won a semi-final game, whilst Grasshoppers and Lausanne, who did not lose a match either, were nevertheless eliminated!

Clearly, the Swiss Football Federation will have to revise its system of deciding cup games for next season, to avoid a similarly bizarre situation. Of course the successful clubs claim, with some justification, that the rules were known and accepted by all participants, but such an unsatisfactory method of establishing the contenders for one of the major prizes of the year should be abolished.

Practice

For the Swiss national team the coming weeks have brought further preparations in the shape of a couple of practice matches against foreign club sides. National team manager René Hüssy has been experimenting with a new midfield trio, having omitted the established and trusted axis of Odermatt-Kuhn-Blättler, to give some younger talents a long overdue chance.

Meyer (24, Grasshoppers), Hasler (25, Basel) and Schneeberger (24, St. Gallen) were tried out in a match against the Austrian First Division side Sturm Graz. But in the 1-1 draw the Swiss could not find any cohesion and that old weakness, lack of a genuine striker, was once again very much in evidence.

Authentic

The old cry, that not enough internationals are played and therefore it is impossible to build a settled team, has at least in this country some authentic foundation. After all, the Swiss only played 11 internationals in the past two years. England, by comparison, have played 12 matches last year alone!

Early start in Argentina

FOLLOWING the shortest close season on record—just 34 days—the Argentine season made an early start this year so as to finish one of the two major championships—the Metropolitan—before the break (on May 12) for the World Cup finals.

At press time two games had been played by each of the 18 clubs which have been divided into two sections of nine each. After clubs in each section have played each other home and away the top two of each section will go into a title play-off.

There is one club more than last season—promotion winners Banfield—because All Boys and FC Oeste were saved from relegation last season by a "decree" suspending relegation for 1973, 1974 and 1975. However, the average number of points obtained by teams during these three seasons will be calculated to decide which three will go down at the end of the 1975 season—unless there is another "decree" in the meantime.

The short close season and lack of ready cash has resulted in practically no transfers and line-ups are almost the same as last term.

As expected, River Plate's Brazilian coach Delem paid the penalty for taking the club "only" to second place in the national championship in December. Former River Plate and international centre-half Nestor Rossi has taken over and River Plate have lost their first two games.

A major change in policy, however, is that players picked for the World Cup squad will be able to play for their respective clubs until 20 days before they actually leave for Europe.

Champions

While the new Colombian championship has also just started, those in Chile and Brazil, corresponding to last year, are still in progress.

In Chile there were two games to go at press time with Union Espanola the virtual champions. Last season's champions Colo Colo, most of whose players are in the national team, have reached second place after starting their league programme long after the others and making up by playing two games per week. The heavy programme, plus international calls, have taken it out of star players such as Valdes, Ahumada, Veliz, Galindo and Yavar who have been off form lately.

Leading positions with two games to go were:—Union Espanola 50 pts., Colo Colo 46, O'Higgins 41 and Huachipato 39 while fighting relegation at the bottom of the table were Universidad Catolica (21) and Union San Felipe (20).

BRAZIL

● Standings in the Brazilian national championship (semi final stage) were: Group 1-1) America (Minas Gerais) 6pts., 2) Internacional Porto Alegre, Bahia, Atletico Mineiro 4, 5) Palmeiras (Sao Paulo), Corinthians (S. Paulo), Tiradentes 3, 8) Coritiba 2, 9) Vasco da Gama (Rio) 1, 10) Ceara 0. Group 2-1) Cruzeiro (Bello Horizonte) 5, 2) Botafogo Rio, Guarani 4, 4) Santos, Sao Paulo, Vitoria 3, 7) Gremio Porto Alegre, Goias, Santa Cruz 2, 10) Fortaleza 0.

PERU

● The new Peruvian champions, Defensor Lima—a modest club founded 42 years ago—won the First Division title for the first time last season.

Defensores, coached by former Uruguayan international goalkeeper Roque Maspoli, established a record of 22 games without defeat last season, while their leading scorer, Francisco Gonzalez, topped the league scorers table with 26 goals—which is also a record for Peruvian soccer.

Chile's danger man is Caszelly

IN the absence of Pele, the South American to catch the eye at the forthcoming World Cup finals could be a 23-year-old Chilean called Carlos Caszelly.

He may not look the part—he is smallish (1m 65), even a bit on the fat side, he plays with his stockings almost continually drooping over his boots and uses no shin guards because it gives him the impression he can't feel the ball so well and it slows him down.

He plays either right-wing or inside, is fast and temperamental and at his best when allowed to roam all over the field and not tied to a position—especially when his team is counter-attacking. He rounds off attacks coolly, shoots with both feet and, in spite of his lack of inches, heads the ball well.

In fact he is Chile's most dangerous forward.

Caszelly recently graduated as a PT instructor and has publicly declared his allegiance to the Allende regime which was recently overthrown by the army in Chile.

But by then Caszelly had already been transferred to Spanish Second Division club Levante. Before that he had played all his soccer with Colo Colo, having started in the Club's junior teams. Last year he had refused a move to Santos who were ready to offer him a fabulous contract and pay 130,000 dollars for his transfer. Why? Merely because he got angry with the Club's directors who had arranged the whole deal without asking him.

In spite of his fame he had been about the lowest paid player in Chile's most popular and richest club—probably because he had been with them from the time he was a boy.

Mario Zagalo, still in charge of World Champions Brazil.

Ponce scores for Argentine league leaders Boca Juniors as top scorer Garcia Gambon looks on.

Pavoni wanted both sides of River Plate

Vladislao Cap, Argentina's national team coach.

●BOTH Uruguay and Argentina want Independiente's defender Elvio Pavoni for their World Cup squads. Pavoni—one of the stalwarts of the Argentine "world champion" club—is Uruguayan and a delegation from the Uruguayan FA came to see Independiente's committee to get his release. At press time Independiente wanted about £45,000 and two matches with the Uruguayan national team in exchange. Meanwhile an Independiente spokesman said that Argentina's national team coach, Vladislao Cap had spoken to the player about the possibility of his becoming naturalized so as to be able to play for Argentina in the World Cup.

● On the other hand Cejas and Andrade, two former Argentine international goalkeepers now playing for Brazilian clubs Santos and Vasco da Gama respectively, had taken out Brazilian nationality with the hope of being included in that country's national team—especially as goal had always been one of Brazil's weakest spots. But their hopes were dashed by a recent announcement from the Brazilian Sports Confederation that no precedent would be set and only players of Brazilian birth would be chosen as had always been the case.

● *The Brazilian Sports Confederation has said that the preparation of its national team for the World Cup finals will cost in the region of five million dollars—but they hope to get this back from pre-World Cup and World Cup games.*

● Two expert opinions on Haiti who will be taking part in the World Cup finals for the first time:

Vladislao Cap (Argentine national team coach): "Watch out for Haiti. Their team has been concentrated for over a year now and they have a number of players of real class."

Aparicio Viana da Silva (Brazilian coach of the Porto Alegre selection which won and lost games against Haiti recently): "They have three or four clever players—the rest are speedsters. When they start running, nobody can catch them."

● **The actual signing of Vladislao Cap's contract as Argentine team coach was held up for several weeks as the Argentine FA would not accept Cap's choice of Osvaldo Zubiedia—a former national team and Estudiantes de La Plata coach—as assistant. There were rumours that Cap would resign before even starting and that Omar Sivori would return—especially after President Peron had asked who had taken the team through the qualifying group and when told it was Sivori he wondered why a change should be made now.**

Finally Cap signed a one-year contract at a monthly salary of £10,000 plus bonuses. His assistants will be Jose Varacka, Victor Rodriguez, Antonio Alvarez and Jorge Kistenmacher (physical training).

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

Training

Argentina became the first South American country to call up players for World Cup training when Cap called 15 to start training on February 18. They are goalkeepers Santoro (Independiente) and Pillol (River Plate), Commisso (Independiente), Ortiz (San Lorenzo), Rezza (San Lorenzo), Telch (San Lorenzo), Balbuena (Independiente), Bertoni (Independiente), Sa (Independiente), Potente (Boca Juniors), Brindisi (Huracan), Chazarreta (San Lorenzo), Wolff (River Plate) and Ferrero (Boca Juniors).

Cap also intends calling on goalkeeper Carnevali (Las Palmas, Spain), Perfumo (Cruzeiro, Brazil), Bargas (Nantes, France) and Ayala (Atletico Madrid) currently playing abroad and sports writers are already forecasting the following World Cup eleven:

Carnevali, Wolff, Perfumo, Bargas, Sa, Brindisi, Telch, Chazarreta, Balbuena, Ayala and Bertoni.

ARGENTINA LOOK TO CAP

ARGENTINE teams have disappointed so often in previous World Cup tournaments that few players or fans venture to predict success in Germany this year. But Argentina would dearly like to win to be able to defend the trophy on their home ground in 1978.

Last October Argentina won their qualifying group against Paraguay and Bolivia unbeaten—with three wins and one draw—but, as I said at the time, they had little to beat and, for once fans, players and critics realized this. Immediately after, the national squad was disbanded and coach Omar Sivori was fired.

At the beginning of the year Vladislao Cap—a former Argentine international attacking half who had played for Huracan, Racing and River Plate before coaching in Columbia—was made national coach.

He chose 14 players to start training on February 19 and added another eight at the beginning of March—including only nine players who had taken part in the qualifying round. But this squad was not expected to be the final 22, because 39-year-old Cap still hoped to include Argentine star players currently playing with foreign clubs such as goalkeeper Carnevali (Las Palmas), back Bargas (Nantes) and forward Ayala (Atletico Madrid) who had also played in the qualifying group (the latter was the group's leading scorer) and also defender Perfumo (Cruzeiro, Brazil) who played for Argentina in the 1966 World Cup finals in England and forward Yazalde (Sporting Lisbon) who is currently breaking all scoring records in Portugal.

Upsurge

Cap favours an attacking game and judging by the present upsurge of goals being scored in the league championship (plus Yazalde and Ayala), he will have the right material available—both in experience and youth.

His main problem will be to wield this temperamental bunch into a team—and to impose discipline. In league games they are prone to temperament, impatience, over-dramatisation of fouls against them, arguments with referees and too individual play. They tend to waste too much time in taking free kicks, lining up and covering—all of which could be fatal in World Cup soccer.

So Argentina's World Cup chances must be summed up in the usual way. They may hit it off as a team—the individual brilliance is there—and become super candidates to take this major honour which this football-crazy country has never even come near to winning since being beaten by Uruguay in the final of the first ever World Cup in Montevideo in 1930.

On the other hand, if they do not become a "team" they may not even qualify for the quarter-finals—and Cap has no illusions about the task facing his team against Italy, Poland and even Haiti for whom he has a high regard.

The squad started training four times a week on February 19, while the players were allowed to line up for their clubs in league games on Sundays until April 14. Clubs engaged in the South American Championship (Libertadores Cup) were allowed to use their players for mid-week games while in this competition. So for one reason or another the full squad has rarely turned up for training.

Training is being done on polo fields belonging to the Jockey Club in the Buenos Aires suburb of San Isidro—partly to avoid crowds of spectators (reporters and photographers easily outnumber the players as it is) and also because only here could they find the well-kept, grass-covered grounds they expect to encounter in Germany.

Selections

Weekly games are also played against provincial selections—all away from Buenos Aires—and these have not given any reasonable pointer so far, because the already mentioned players with foreign clubs (who had not returned to Argentina yet) are likely to form the back-bone of the side.

Of the "home" players, 24-year-old Brindisi—who has most international appearances to his credit (35) and is the only one who played in the last World Cup (qualifying games)—is the man to watch. He is rapidly building a reputation as one of South America's top stars and First Division champions Huracan were not allowed by the Argentine FA to transfer him to Milan recently.

The Italian club was reportedly willing to pay an Argentine record fee of 875,000 dollars for him. He is a mid-field organiser with an eye for goal and he made a big difference to the team in last year's international games.

The squad was due to leave at the beginning of May to play warm-up games in Europe, including a match at Wembley against England on May 22.

WORLD champions Brazil were, as usual, the first of the South American finalists to pick their final 22 players—including eight of the 16 players who had actually worn Brazil's colours in Mexico four years ago.

The choice brought no real surprises. There was of course no Pele (who had definitely refused to be included, no Tostao (who retired recently because of recurring eye trouble) and no veterans such as Gerson, Everaldo and Brito—great players all, but perhaps their loss to Brazil will be more psychological than anything else.

All the other "regulars" of Brazil's World Cup team in Mexico—Felix, Carlos Alberto (who is likely to be captain again), Wilson Piazza, Clodoaldo, Paulo Cesar, Rivelhino and Jairzinho are in the 22 and if they forget the absentees and go about playing their own game Brazil can be the same power in Germany as in Mexico—always taking into account of course that Mexico's climate and conditions did suit them a bit better.

Brazilians are concerned about whether Rivelhino will be able to do Gerson's mid-field job. They forget that 32-year-old Ademir Da Guia, who does the job excellently for national champions Palmeiras, is back in favour after 10 years' absence during which his exclusion from national teams has always caused raised eyebrows. In front of him Da Guia will have club mate Leivinha (24), leading scorer with 20 goals in the very much defence orientated last national championship. These two could be the stars in Germany.

There is one question. League soccer in Brazil has become very defence minded. Will the national team follow suit?

Mario Zagalo is still head coach and Brazil's organisation of training—the whole schedule (times, places, etc.) was mapped out right from the beginning of March (with training started) up to the first World Cup match in Germany—medical supervision of players (under a team of doctors) and all other details concerning the squad must be marvelled at. The 22 chosen players have not been allowed to play for their clubs since March.

It just shows again that in Brazil soccer is the most important thing. If they don't retain the World Cup it will be a national disaster.

AS Colo Colo, the Chilean vice champions, all of whose players are in Chile's national team squad, dragged their weary legs through their Libertadores Cup games the writing seemed to be on the wall for Chile's World Cup hopes.

Colo Colo were excused from league games during the early part of the season while the club fought through to the final of the 1973 Libertadores Cup and the national team played a series of games and qualified for the World Cup finals. Then Colo Colo had to play two league games per week to catch up on their programme, while their players also had national team training and the occasional international game.

Nestor Rossi, former River Plate and Argentina international centre-half with some of the River Plate players he started coaching at the start of the season.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

No sooner had the 1973 season finally finished—in February of this year—then Colo Colo went into the 1974 Libertadores Cup. A further blow was the transfer of star forward Ahumada—his contract had expired—to the new champions, Union Espanola. (Another star forward, Caszelly, had previously been transferred to Spanish club Levante).

No wonder Colo Colo were not the same team as last year and at press time they were already out of the Libertadores Cup, having lost their first four games. They were bottom of Group 1 from which one of the two Argentine clubs—Huracan or Rosario Central—were sure to qualify for the semi finals.

Chile's World Cup team was due to start serious training at the beginning of April. The question is, will Colo Colo players, who form the basis of the Chilean team, be able to shake off their staleness in time.

Meanwhile, Penarol, the Uruguayan champions, who have participated in all but one of the 15 editions of the Libertadores Cup and won it three times, became the first club to qualify for the semi finals by winning group 5 against Nacional (Uruguay) and Cerro Porteno and Olimpia of Paraguay.

Claimed

Elsewhere Colombia's Millionarios Club claimed the points of games played in Venezuela against Valencia and Portuguesa of that country because according to Millionarios club president Ignacio Klein: "There is no proper football association in Venezuela, only a league and a provisional board not affiliated to FIFA and as a result it's complete chaos. In one of the matches the referee and one of our players were threatened with firearms. Nobody waited for us on arrival at the airport and we had to arrange our own transport and accommodation. On top of that, four of the players we faced were not registered with the provisional board nor with the South American Federation!

A DAY before the South American Junior Championships were due to start in Chile it was found that Argentina and Paraguay had brought players who were over the age limit—stipulated at under 20 on the day the tournament started. Of Argentina's 20 players 15 were over age and they had to send for urgent replacements.

The press asked: "If they can't even read the rules properly, how the hell are they going to organise the World Cup in 1978?"

ARGENTINA'S WORLD CUP SQUAD

	Age	Caps
Goal:		
Miguel Santoro (Independiente)	33	13
Ubaldo Fillol (River Plate)	23	—
Defence:		
Francisco Sa (Independiente) (1)	26	3
Enrique Wolff (River Plate) (1)	25	34
Halves:		
Miguel Brindisi (Huracan) (1/2)	24	35
Roberto Telch (San Lorenzo) (1)	30	29
Forwards:		
Augustin Balbuena (Independiente) (1)	28	6
Ricardo Bertoni (Independiente)	19	—
Rene Housemann (Huracan)	20	3
Roque Avallay (Huracan) (1)	29	14
Enrique Chazarreta (San Lorenzo) (1)	26	14
Alberto Tarantini (Boca Juniors)	18	—
Nestor Togneri (Estudiantes)	31	—
Aldo Poy (Rosario Central)	28	1

The remaining eight from:

Goal:
Daniel Carnevalli (Las Palmas, Spain) (1)

Defence:
Roberto Perfumo (Cruzeiro, Brazil) (3)
Ruben Glaria (San Lorenzo) (1)
Angel Bargas (Nantes, France) (1)
Jorge Paolino (Racing Club)

Halves:
Carlos Squeo (Racing Club)
Santiago Santamarina (Newell's OB)

Forwards:
Victorio Cocco (San Lorenzo)
Ruben Pagnanini (Estudiantes)
Osvaldo Potente (Boca Juniors)
Ruben Cano (Atlanta)
Ruben Ayala (Atletico Madrid, Spain) (1)
Hector Yazalde (Sporting, Portugal)

(1) played in qualifying games; (2) played in 1970 qualifying games; (3) played in 1966 World Cup finals.

BRAZIL'S WORLD CUP SQUAD

	Age
Goal:	
Felix Mielli Venerando "Felix" (Fluminense)	36 (x)
Emerson Leao (Palmeiras)	
Wendel (Botafogo)	
Defence:	
Carlos Alberto Torres (Carlos Alberto) (Santos) (*captain*)	30 (x)
Jose Maria Rodrigues Alves "Ze Maria" (Corinthians)	23
Luiz Pereira (Palmeiras)	27
Marinho (Santos)	
Alfredo Mostarda Filho "Alfredo" (Palmeiras)	26
Wilson Da Silva Piazza "Wilson Piazza" (Cruzeiro)	32 (x)
Marco Antonio Feliciano "Marco Antonio" (Fluminense)	23 (x)
Marinho (Botafogo)	
Halves:	
Carbone (Botafogo)	
Clodoaldo Tavares Santana (Santos)	(x)
Ademir Da Guia (Palmeiras)	32
Roberto Rivelino (Corinthians)	28 (x)
Paulo Cesar "Gaucho" (Internacional)	24 (x)
Forwards:	
Jair Ventura Filho "Jairzinho" (Botafogo)	29 (x)
Jaon Leiva Campos Filho "Leivinha" (Palmeiras)	24
Sebastiao Miranda Da Silva Filho "Mirandinha" (Sao Paulo)	22
Eneas Camargo "Eneas" (Portuguesa)	20
Paulo Cesar Lima "Paulo Cesar" (Flamengo)	24 (x)
Dirceu Jose Guimaraes "Dirceu" (Botafogo)	22

(x) played in the Mexico finals.

from
ANDREW
DETTRE

Aussies realise enormity of task ahead...

TO a disturbing degree, Australian soccer is at present in the throes of that "after-party mood." The euphoria which had enveloped almost the entire continent following the team's qualification for the World Cup finals has largely evaporated; the spirit of bravado has been replaced by dissension and even sheer fright at the enormity of the task facing the team.

The difference between a pessimist and an optimist, according to a current Budapest *bon mot*, is that the pessimist is better informed and those who see our World Cup prospects in increasingly dark colours are fairly well informed.

Most of the problems associated with the team's preparations are aired in the pages of our newspapers; Australian sport doesn't believe in private linen washing.

The trouble started when the New South Wales State Federation — which will supply probably 19 of the 22 squad players — has decided not to suspend the local championship during the World Cup. This body has also decreed that the Australian Federation should not have the players available for World Cup duty before the end of May as this would "interfere" with the domestic season.

Obscure

This almost unprecedented myopia, apart from constituting a snub to the World Cup, has predestined the plans of team manager Rale Rasic. The once hoped for "extensive preparations" for the battles of Hamburg and Berlin have been reduced to haphazard, almost casual approach.

Australia will play a friendly match in April against as yet unknown Brazilian club side — maybe the obscure Colorado from the state of Paruna — then in May may have a match or two against some visiting British club teams, before leaving for Europe. En route they will play a totally inconclusive match against the lowly Indonesia, then expose themselves to an ambitious Israel in Tel Aviv in a match with nothing to gain and every bit of moral to lose.

Hazy plans

That's how they will land in Europe where, according to some hazy plans, they may play one or two further games against club sides in Switzerland and perhaps Poland.

To make things worse, manager Rale Rasic himself has displayed signs of last minute World Cup-eve jitters. For a match against a nopdescript team from Auckland, New Zealand — surely the absolute backwater of world soccer — he has added four new players to his squad while dropping some of his regulars.

This last minute experiment was rather baffling. Since 1970 Rasic has been building his World Cup team with patience and even logic; two long overseas tours and the three elimination group battles have provided him with every chance to find the most suitable players and shape his team.

Late last year he relied on 16 or 17 players to win a place in the World Cup finals. Since then we have had a long off-season during which nobody got injured and certainly nobody could lay a proper claim to be added to the squad. Yet Rasic, at this late stage, has started to experiment — mainly with players who have been on the local scene for some years without once being considered good enough for his previous teams . . .

Exclude

Of course, Rasic may change his mind once more, before the April 30 deadline when the initial squad of 40 must be submitted to FIFA. But at this stage it looks possible that from his "standard" team of 1973 he may exclude goalkeeper Jim Fraser, stopper John Watkiss, midfielder and former captain John Warren as well as strikers Max Tolson and Adrian Alston.

All this, however, is a manager's prerogative and one should not prejudge Rasic on his choices. What does disturb me deeply, however, is that his selections don't appear to reveal any clear pattern one would have though imperative for the World Cup.

Even the most casually informed observer in Australia is aware that in in the World Cup against East Germany, West Germany and Chile, the Aussies can only play in a very tight, defensive formation, probably with four full-backs and four midfielders. In this formation, even the two strikers will have to be players capable of helping out in the rear; any striker, pure and simple, would be a stunning luxury in matches where Australia will have its back to the wall for most of the 90 minutes.

One would have liked Rasic to find just such a formation — and keep it together as often as possible. Instead, lately he has been experimenting with different new strikers as though our forthcoming matches in the World Cup were against Indonesia and Iran, not the two formidable Germanys . . .

If all these worrying aspects still don't fill the avid Aussie "Socceroo" fans with sufficient foreboding, he can turn his gloomy attention to the financial dispute currently being waged between the Australian Federation and the players.

Heroes

Having read the thrilling, often exaggerated stories about the fortunes the 16 finalists will make at the World Cup, Australia's unlikely heroes have stepped forward with their demands. Going on the estimate that Australia's share of the revenue from gates, TV and radio rights and other sources may reach $160,000(Aus.), by simple arithmetics the players have asked for $8,000 apiece just for appearing in the matches.

Ray Baartz, centre, in action against Iran in Sydney.

This, on known figures, exceed the bonuses of players in any other team where the bonanza is usually tied to reaching a certain stage of the competition. Here it was just for playing . . . Australian Federation president Sir Arthur George, a brilliant lawyer and businessman, cut the haggle short and pointblank refused the request.

Now the dispute continues with the players spending more time working out their just share of the revenue than training together.

Sponsored

The early season forms of most World Cup hopefuls, as shown in the usual pre-season cup series sponsored by an oil company, have been anything but heart warming, the same as in the two matches against the visiting Hungarian Ferencvaros where Australia lost 1-2 and then drew 0-0.

Jim Fraser still looked the most reliable of the available goalkeepers and one can only secretly hope that he will be reinstated in the squad. Among the defenders the polished Dag Utjesenovic and Colin Curran seemed the only logical choices while Manfred Schaefer and Peter Wilson are still a long way from their peak. These two, playing as double-stoppers, may be too vulnerable against any German onslaught as they are slow on the turn and lack the necessary skill of distribution.

Aborigine full back Harry Williams is only now recovering from a dramatic bout with encephalitis while another one, Bobby Hogg, has been written off following a fracture of a leg and painfully slow recovery.

In midfield the team's motor and playmaker, Ray Richards was first sidelined through a dispute with his club, then suffered an injury. For even a respectable showing in the World Cup a Richards at his best is an absolute must. Jimmy Rooney, a hard-working little fellow, is playing fairly well but two other midfielders, John Warren and Jim Mackay, are out of touch and one wonders if they will even make the team.

Up front the problems are even worse. The clever and elusive Attila Abonyi can be scintillating as ever against "soft" opposition — but how will he stand up against, say, a Paul Breitner? Centre striker Adrian Alston hasn't played well since that memorable, decising Hong Kong game; now he wants a transfer from his provincial club to Sydney and that dispute will not enhance his chances of regaining form.

Talented

Rasic considered Melbourne winger Branko Buljevic his secret weapon for Germany. Undoubtedly a talented ball-player, Brankovic, in my view, is so slow and complicated that he will be swept out of the first match before he realises what has happened to him.

Ernie Campbell should make the team; his skills and his combativeness would be handy assets. Ray Baartz, Australia's most capped player, has been in wretched form for weeks and his club, Hakoah, have not won any of their first five pre-season matches.

Of the new additions to the squad, only defender Ivo Rudic could be a definite gain. This intelligent, reliable player of Yugoslav origin, may fit into the team quickly, at least easing Rasic' defensive problems.

This, then, is the far from rosy picture less than 100 days before the World Cup: problems, disputes and last minute panic moves as well as lack of proper preparations characterised Australia's World Cup bid in March.

One can only hope for a vast improvement in April and May. But this hope hinges on whether you're an optimist or a pessimist . . .

Next month

WORLD CUP SPECIAL

Preview of the 1974 World Cup Finals in words and pictures...

Bruce Rioch with his new Derby colleagues Roger Davies and Archie Gemmell. Rioch has just scored against Ipswich Town.

Birmingham mourns loss of two stars

by Brian Marshall

SOCCER fans in the Birmingham area are very bitter people these days following the transfer of Bob Latchford and Bruce Rioch within the space of a few days. They argue that Birmingham will never enjoy the success of Liverpool, Manchester and London if they are to part with their best assets.

It is a valid argument because both clubs have had very disappointing seasons and they cannot really expect to build along the right lines for the future if they part with their best players to the highest bidder.

Incredibly, Derby County were able to pay out £200,000 for Rioch. Not so long ago they were a struggling club with very small gates but after being transformed by Brian Clough they have gone from strength to strength.

Meanwhile, Aston Villa, who have not exactly been ignored by their fans, are struggling financially. Birmingham City, too, who have one of the best average home attendance figures in the first division, are also in dire need of money to assist in team rebuilding.

Qualms

Both players had no qualms about leaving Birmingham. Both collected handsome payments as part of the transfer deal which must have made their colleagues green with envy.

Rioch said: "I have never hidden the fact that I wanted to play in the First Division. It was a great disappointment when Villa were relegated into the Third Division. This was the last thing I thought would occur when I agreed to move from Luton to Villa.

"Now I have been given a wonderful opportunity to improve my status and what is also important at this stage of my career is that I have not been forced to move to a new area to live. I can remain on the outskirts of Birmingham and travel to Derby which is only 30 minutes away by car."

Explosive

Rioch will be an obvious asset to Derby. His explosive shooting could be a feature of their play in the weeks to come and could take over from Alan Hinton, who has been in and out of the side as manager Dave Mackay attempts to rebuild the side to his own style in his haste to rid the club of the Brian Clough image.

This might not be a good thing in the long run because basically the Derby side left by Clough was a sound unit capable of playing together for at least another two seasons. Mackay, however, had his obvious problems and he is going for big changes in personnel.

In Rioch he has a strong player who should give him valuable service in the immediate future. The best of Rioch could come next season after he has settled down at the Baseball Ground.

Latchford, too, is a crowd pleaser. He is the old fashioned type of centre forward who keeps challenging against the odds. This type of persistent play has earned him a great deal of praise from many quarters and it was more of a surprise to hear of his transfer than it was to discover that Derby County had acquired the services of Bruce Rioch.

Many of their fans were amazed at the decision upon which manager Freddie Goodwin's future could depend. He took the gamble, and it was a long shot, that he could part with his leading goalscorer and pick up two quality defenders, plus a fee.

Successful

Unfortunately, early results did not indicate that it was a successful move and there could be a lot of heart-ache at St. Andrew's in the months to come because of the decision to release Latchford.

He rather rubbed salt into the wound when Birmingham City went to Goodison Park shortly after his transfer and promptly scored two goals against his old club.

Latchford said: "I was thrilled to score two goals but a little sad to do it against Birmingham. I thought they played well in the first half but they later made too many mistakes which helped us to score the goals.

"One thing which got me going was Joe Gallagher saying to me in the first half: "What makes you worth £350,000 you big lay-about?"

Convinced

"I thought to myself that it wasn't me who fixed the fee but I would show him why Everton wanted me. I later scored two goals and this made me very happy because I think I proved to the Goodison Park fans that I can do the job expected of me in the Everton side."

Birmingham City supporters are convinced that he will do well at Everton. They only bemoan the fact that he is not in their side in their fight against relegation.

In the light of the playing fortunes of both Aston Villa and Birmingham City, it really is amazing that they parted with two such fine players.

The respective decisions at St. Andrew's and Villa Park put both clubs almost back to square one.

This is of no consolation to the fans who were hoping that the 1970's would be the decade for Birmingham to enjoy some success.

MARSEILLE — SHED A TEAR!

News from France...by ANDRE DUCLOS

SHED a tear for Olympique Marseille; or if you wish, reflect on the steady working of Nemesis. You will remember that only a few seasons ago, they wrested the Championship of France from the grasp of Saint Etienne by what some felt to be highly dubious means.

The *contract à temps*, which gave players freedom to move as soon as their contracts expired, had only just come in. Secretly, Marseille signed contracts for the following season with two stars of the Saint Etienne defence, Bernard Bosquier, the stopper, and the goal-keeper, Carnus. When Saint Etienne found that out, they angrily dropped both men. The team, which then held a strong lead at the top of the Championship, fell apart, and Marseille were the eventual winners.

Since then, Saint Etienne have been painfully but steadily rebuilding. It has been Olympique's turn, after a couple of very successful seasons, to fall apart.

Enemies

In their case, it may be said that they lived by the sword and have all but perished by the sword. The style of their President, Marcel Leclerc, made him fervent followers, and embattled enemies. To say that he could ride rough shod over his opponents at times would be an understatement. Eventually he went too far, was accused of malfeasance, brought libel actions in his turn, and was thrown out of the club.

There are those in the city who would still like him back, and slogans to that effect are to be seen. But there is no chance of that happening till the various charges and counter charges are straightened out. In the meanwhile the administration of his successor, M. Gallian, has been a distaster. True, M. Gallian himself has been ill much of the time, till at the last, earlier this year, he himself was thrown out.

There had been a succession of different managers — Linder, the German, the eternal Zatelli, Bonnel, Riera and now Jules Zvunka — but the players had been greedy and undisciplined, with results going from bad to worse, while the directors bickered and squabbled.

You will know by the time you read this whether poor Zvunka, an ex-Olympique player of skill and renown, whose younger brother now plays in the team, can pull things round; but the prognosis is not good. He has to fight on too many fronts at once.

Transfer policy has certainly been bad. How the club must now regret letting Salif Keita go, having secured him, too, from Saint Etienne, now that he is doing so well in Spain with Valencia. And they just mourn even more that fine midfield international half-back, Jacky Novi. Nicknamed "The Saint of French Football."

Problems

Novi was one of the pillars of the team. Last season, however, things didn't go so well. He hurt a shoulder, had to have an operation, and when he recovered, could not regain a regular place in the first team. So he decided to cut his losses and go back to his native Nimes. He is happier, but has his problems.

For one thing, the ground is drier, harder, putting a proportionately greater strain on his heavily muscled legs. For another, the method of training under the Nimes manager, Kadar Firoud, is different; nothing is done without the ball, whereas at Marseille there was a great deal of work without it. Different muscles, as Novi points out, are called into use. The failures of Marseille give this pleasant young man no satisfaction. It is, he says regretfully, like having a very dear relative gravely ill.

Eliminated

Marseille, let it be said, are not the only South Coast club to have been in trouble. Nice, who began the season so well and had a good run in the UEFA Cup, were surprisingly eliminated by their near neighbours, from the Second Division, Cannes. This is a lively team, a promising club, with an impressive morale, a very good young student goal-keeper in Serge Griffoni — who might turn full time pro if a big club made him a good offer — and a chance of promotion this year. Their President laments that the *contract à temps*, is bleeding football in France white. His preferred method is to make his players happy by letting them share in the gate receipts, a policy he recommends to the larger clubs.

Another 20-year-old to distinguish himself, indeed to be called up among his possibles by the national coach Stefan Kovacs, is Dominique Bathenay, the Saint Etienne sweeper.

Until October last year, he had never played above Division Three. Then, in an emergency, Robert Herbin picked him to play in the back four. He did remarkably well, playing the Dutch international, Janssens, out of the game. Subsequently, he took the place of the injured Argentinian international, Piazza, as sweeper; with such success that Piazza has been unable to get back; a remarkable achievement for so very young a player.

Precocious

Bathenay, however, has precocious poise and self-confidence. He has certainly surprised Herbin, his manager, who though when he arrived as a teenager that he was too slow and sluggish. Just as he once surprised a French journalist who went on tour with him and the club to Bamoko, Mali, who saw him, then a detached 17-year-old, mooning about with no apparent interest in what was going on around him. When, in the plane home, he asked Bathenay to jot down for him the impressions he had received, he was surprised eventually to be given several neatly written pages of keen observation.

Certainly we have the young players and the young players have the character even if, as Kovics, reminds us, there is far to go. He is particularly stringent about the deficiencies of our midfield players. Another youngster to take his eye is the French Under 21 and Sochaux centre-forward, Gérard Soler, who won't even begin his military service till June.

This is a player who, at 18, made a flying start, coveted by man clubs, but ran out of steam not long after he joined Sochaux. He now, as he admits, has appreciated that pro football is no easy whirl; and has matured accordingly.

Disbelief when Hunter was named

says LESLIE VERNON

I WAS frozen in disbelief at the announcement of the name of Norman Hunter as Footballer of The Year put forward by the Professional Footballers' Association. This was equivalent to giving President Amin the Nobel Prize for statesmanship. On reflection, however, this nomination by so-called sportsmen fully explains why English football is at its all-time low", writes Mr. C. Field, an *Evening Standard* reader.

I am quoting him in full, because my sentiments are ditto, and it would be difficult to improve on his analogy. The Chicago Police Force picking Al Capone as "Man of the Year" might highlight another aspect of this totally inexplicable choice. I do realise that to knock the recipient of an award, be it a Hollywood Oscar or the Milkman of the Week, is bad manners.

It also must be stated that Hunter has given magnificent service to Leeds United, and he very seldom has a bad game. But he was sent-off in the Cup Winners Cup Final for deliberately kicking an opponent, was booked umpteen times during the year in question, and was suspended by the F.A. Disciplinary Committee and by the UEFA.

For the Football Writers Player of the Year award, the criteria is that the title should go "to the Player, who by precept and example on and off the field, shall have been considered to have done most for football during the season."

Rostrum

If the same conditions applied for the P.F.A. award, Hunter wouldn't have been given a ticket for the dinner, let alone called up on the rostrum, which minutes earlier, was graced by the likes of Tom Finney and Bobby Charlton. Predictably, the Press' reaction to the entire evening was discreet silence. Apart from a nauseating piece by John Morgan in the Express, no-one had the temerity to hail such an obvious miscarriage of justice.

After all, if the players were looking for class and achievement, they should have cast their votes for Bremner, Channon or Hughes, the key man of Liverpool, champions and UEFA Cup Winners. For sheer consistency and hard work, there were candidates a-plenty, notably Callaghan, Hollins, Bailey and George Armstrong.

Why did they choose Norman Hunter? They can't all be masochists who enjoy being hacked down from behind, crash-tackled and generally ill-treated. I suspect that the reason behind this curious choice, which turned a non-event into a sick joke, is much more devious and significant.

In the recent past, rightly or wrongly, the names of Storey and Hunter have become synonymous with the ruthless, physical side of football. I won use the adjective "professional", because that label implies a sense of pride in one's calling, and, consequently, a desire to present football in the best possible light. Sir Alf has been widely criticised for selecting Storey and Hunter for the return match in Berlin against W. Germany. "How can we play positive, attacking football with S. and H. in the side?" has been the stock question for a couple of seasons.

The P.F.A. members do know that voting for Hunter wasn't merely an expression of admiration for a colleague. It was a statement of faith in what he represents in the eyes of the general public. A deliberate, calculated Harvey Smith gesture to the media.

Artistry

"This is the way we want to play the game in England, whether you approve of it or not. To hell with artistry, imagination, good sportsmanship. To us only results matter, and we don't care much how we achieve them." As Brian Glanville says: "to-day's players are tomorrow's managers and coaches", and it is a frightening prospect to contemplate that during the next decade, hundreds of mini-Hunters will invade the game and squeeze every ounce of pleasure out of it.

The ever-widening gulf between football and its professional commentators is equally disturbing. People who make their living by actively participating (players, coaches) are increasingly resentful of the Press and television. This is a world-wide phenomenon—Zagalo wouldn't talk to Brazilian reporters during the latter part of their European tour, the Spanish players refused to give interviews earlier this season, and there are serious disagreements in Hungary, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Ceremony

I was once told by a F.A. coach that I must not criticise Ramsey, because he knows more about the game than I do. It is implied that football is some kind of complicated secret ceremony understood only by those who have played it at the highest level. All others are ignorant outsiders who should keep quiet unless, of course, they are willing to sing the praises of these miracle men.

Leeds United have never complained about articles which have compared them with the Real Madrid of the fifties, and if a mug of a player is described as "world-class" by an over enthusiastic reporter, his manager doesn't grab a 'phone to lodge a protest with the sports editor.

Norman Hunter.

Until recently, I was almost tempted to fall for this phoney philosophy, conceding that as one doesn't know the exact tactical instructions given to the players before a match, one cannot properly evaluate their individual contributions. In the Ipswich v Leipzig UEFA Cup match, for instance, the talented Clive Woods repeatedly beat his full-back, then wasted his opportunities by sending over a stream of useless high-crosses. Was this his fault or did his manager tell him to keep on pumping balls towards the Johnston-Whymark duo?

But now my mind is at rest. The players have shown crass ignorance of what the game is all about, and when the chips were down, they displayed the unacceptable face of big-time football. In the future, stick to kicking a ball, lads! Leave the commentating and voting to the Press. We know better!

P.S. I rushed to buy a paper when I noticed the legend on the poster, "Ramsey retires". Alas, the headline referred to some obscure Archbishop . . .

ERIC BATTY says...

CFB SHOW ARSENAL—BUT!

THE recent visit to London of Johan Cruyff, disguised as a CF Barcelona player, was pleasant enough. A good crowd for George Armstrong, a lesson for Arsenal and enough little flashes of the real thing to let us know that CFB can turn it on when they want to.

This was the first time I'd seen CFB in England since their glorious 5-2 thrashing of Wolves (Molineux's first ever home defeat against foreigners) in a European Cup game. That was back in 1960, and just to emphasise how long ago it was Helenio Herrera was the boss.

How are the mighty fallen. Cruyff flitted in an out of the Highbury game. He did some great things . . . but for me there were too few of them. Again, for the super star he is supposed to be, he should have done more and stayed for the whole 90 minutes. Don Alfredo came here often in his great days with Real Madrid and invariably stayed the course. His was, perhaps, an egotistical view though I prefer to think he had a sense of responsibility. The crowd had come to see him . . . so he stayed.

They came to Highbury to see you Cruyffie. The public paid good money and if the majority thought they'd had their money's worth, I didn't. I remember Di Stefano. In fact, during the few minutes following Cruyff's departure I thought CFB put together some of their best football of the evening.

Memory

I also thought that overall Marcial was was a better player (over the 45 minutes he was on) and that he, as well as Rexach, is suffering from an inferiority complex when Cruyff is about.

But back for a moment to 1960. From memory the CFB attack was Coll, Kocsis, Martinez, Suarez, Villaverde with only Kocsis and Martinez staying up. 4-0 ahead after the first leg, CFB played 1-4-3-2 and took Wolves apart. The English champions pushed up, looking for goals and the harder they tried the more the score mounted against them. With five minutes to go CFB were 5-1 up on the night and winning 9-1 on aggregate.

Much has happened since then, of course, and clearly Spanish football has gone down the drain. It happened long ago, of course, though clubs like Real and CFB have been living on their reputations. But with this Barcelona squad well ahead in the championship race, those in charge of the Spanish game haven't yet stoped the rot. They haven't even found the plug!

Clearly the CFB of today is a good side. Not having seen Rinus Michels work with them I would say that on the evidence at Highbury they train like West Ham and Borussia Monchengladbach. It shows in tight situations: right time, right place and a ball with the right weight, from foot to foot to foot. Nice.

Looking overall, De la Cruz at left back made some very good runs in the first half; Gallego, who has been out of the side recently, is still solid and reliable. Marcial I liked very much indeed. He got through far more work in his 45 minute stint than Cruyff did, is clearly an accomplished player and must have put in five times as many shots in half the game as Arsenal managed between them in the entire match.

Asensi was useful, and Juanito very promising but clearly Michels is having problems with Hugo Sotil. In Mexico, where he played for Peru in the last World Cup, Sotil was a veritable devil with the ball. Once he got it, he kept it, even refusing to give it to colleagues. Fantastic mazy dribbles all over the place.

Now Michels is making him play a lot of one-touch in training, hoping to get the balance right but on what I saw it seems he's gone too far the other way at the moment, and the result is that Sotil's tremendous ability didn't show, even though he scored a fine headed goal. This was the best goal of the evening, starting with a finely judged cross from Rexach out on the right to Cruyff (far left). Cruyff headed the ball back into the middle and there Sotil came in like a train, stretching his neck to the limit to put a glancing header in off a post.

Vintage

Cruyff also set up the chance for the second goal with a superbly taken kick out on the left. Moments earlier he had shown his wizardry with a brilliant piece of footwork inside the Arsenal penalty area that left everyone gasping. That was vintage Cruyff . . . but there wasn't enough of it to satisfy me. Several times Torres the CFB libero organised an off-side trap that caught Arsenal men like flies in a web and once it developed into one of the most surprising attacks I've ever seen — certainly revolutionary in these ultra defensive times. Arsenal moved upfield, Torres called 'Now' and the entire CFB defence sprinted forward, winning the ball en route and just kept on going. It was like a cavalry charge — an off-side trap that turned into a nine man attack that was produced off the cuff.

Juanito of Barcelona.

Finally a word about Arsenal and the referee. I liked Brady — an elegant left foot and young enough to learn how to play. Could be very useful in a year or two. And the referee? He should have been at Ipswich a week earlier where Hungarian referee Somlai used the advantage law to perfection.

Using his initiative the Hungarian waited just a fraction of a second after each infringement to see whether the presumed advantage developed or not. If it did he let play go on — and if it didn't he brought them all back and gave a free kick. Let all referees take note. I wish all those on the FA and FL lists had been there to see it.

The referee for the Arsenal - CFB game blew too early and stuck to his decisions. My advice is for him to hang on just a shade longer. And Barcelona? Good but not great. For the European Cup next year? Maybe, because there isn't too much opposition about just now, but make no mistake. The CFB team of 1960 would have taken on both Arsenal and Barcelona 11 against 22 . . . and won.

Disappointing excursion abroad for Wo

NO GOALS GERMANY

ONE defeat, one draw and no goals—this was the uninspiring net result of West Germany's last excursion abroad, before the concluding build up for the World Cup finals. A disappointing 0-1 score line against Spain in Barcelona, was followed by a 0-0 with Italy in Rome. Now only three matches remain for manager Helmut Schön, in which he must put the finishing touches to a side whose backbone now stands established and past the experiment stage, but whose performances recently could hardly have enhanced its reputation as the number one favourite for the world's premier trophy.

In short, the German team who 18 months ago won the European Championship in convincing style and who after the draw for the first final round of the World Cup had been rated by most experts as the top contender for the world championship, will have to raise their standards considerably, if they are to justify their exalted position.

Assessment

The encounter in Barcelona provided a typical example of how quickly fortunes can change in football, and indeed how careful one should be in the assessment of teams, as well as individual players, on the basis of one match. Thus, the Spanish side whose style in their 0-1 defeat by Yugoslavia, just a fortnight earlier, was widely described as "20 years out of date", played in a modern manner against a German team, that is supposed to be Europe's leading World Cup contender, but who on the evidence of this game were made to look positively old fashioned.

It is true, of course, that Schön did not field his strongest selection. In the first place it had been decided beforehand to give a first cap to goalkeeper Norbert Nigbur 25 (Schalke), whose inclusion has for so long been demanded by the vast majority of experts and fans.

Secondly, that fine left winger Erwin Kremers has unaccountably lost form, so that Schön took this opportunity to introduce a newcomer in this position with Dieter Herzog 27 (Fortuna Düsseldorf). Both debutants acquitted themselves well, and it certainly wasn't their fault that the team as a whole gave a strangely lethargic performance.

The goal chances were there for the taking. Weber hit a post, whilst the great Gerd Müller failed from the penalty spot, his shot being brilliantly parried by goalkeeper Iribar. Otherwise Gerd suffered from some of the most indiscrimate tackling, mainly from Benito, and mostly behind the referee's back.

The Spaniards, still smarting from their World Cup elimination by Yugoslavia and having made several changes, were determined to redeem themselves before their public. The officials of the Spanish F.A. must have had a premonition of the inevitable disenchantment. They switched this international from the fabulous Nou Camp stadium of the C.F. Barcelona (cap. 110,000) to the much small Sarria ground (cap. 45,000) of Espanol, where a derisory crowd of only 13,000 turned out to watch their team against the World Cup favourites!

Barcelona's midfield ace Asensi scored the winner in the 20th minute with a tremendous volley, following a well placed corner kick which proved quite unstoppable for the brave Nigbur. He, Weber and Herzog did well for Germany, but the off-form Overath, plus the disappointing Vogts, Helmut Kremers and the injured Grabowski, who were substituted by Breitner, Wimmer and Heynckes respectively, could find neither their usual rhythm, nor cohesion.

Midfield

For the match with the strong Italians in Rome the whole of Germany was roused by the news that the long awaited test with Netzer and Overath as a midfield axis was at last to be staged. These two schemers were last performing together on June 30, 1971, in Germany's 3-1 win over Denmark in Copenhagen. Since then, in 20 internationals either one or the other, or both, had been missing.

But manager Schön had vowed: "I am determined to try this pair together before the World Cup finals." And after a long wrangle between the respective Football Federations, the Spanish F.A. persuaded Real Madrid to release Netzer, in accordance with the terms of his contract, a copy of which was even lodged with the world authority F.I.F.A.!

In a way, it was a pity that this vital trial had to occur against one of the strongest teams in the world. And so, in these circumstances, the question whether Netzer and Overath can sustain a successful partnership in such key positions has, at least in this match, remained unanswered. Both tried very hard—not surprisingly, since one of them would have had to go—but whilst Overath seemed more apprehensive and less confident than usual, Netzer obviously needs a few more games in the national team to recapture that almost telepathic understanding with his colleagues, at the back and at the front, which was one of the most distinctive features of that European Championship side in 1972.

Telepathic

It is obvious, that Schön still cherishes the memory of that fine team and it was therefore not surprising to find that in Rome no fewer than nine men who won the European title nearly two years ago were included, as only Wimmer and Erwin Kremers were absent.

Thus, the complete defensive block as it performed in the EC was chosen once more: Maier in goal and Höttges, Schwarzenbeck, Beckenbauer and Breitner in front of him. In midfield Bernd Cullmann was assisting Netzer and Overath; in attack Heynckes was on the left and Hoeness on the right, partnering Gerd Müller.

The Italians, who have gone 10 matches without conceding a goal, are particularly difficult to beat at home. Bearing this in mind, the goalless draw in Rome's Olympic stadium before a crowd of 90,000 was not a bad result for Germany. The Germans controlled play in the second half when they were pressing forward and Netzer hit an upright, but the redoubtable Italian defence held firm.

Indicated

The German rear-guard also did extremely well and Maier, as I indicated in previous issues of *World Soccer*, is still their number one 'keeper. But the problem of the composition of the midfield trio must soon be solved and in addition, some other tactical

rld Cup favourites—says Arthur Rotmil

AS WEST STRUGGLE

ploy should be tried to restore the firing power up front.

There is little doubt that the team has been relying perhaps too much on Gerd Müller for getting goals and thus have helped the opposition to devise tactics aimed at blocking the flow of passes to Müller. It is a pity that Heynckes, who is now scoring freely in the *Bundesliga*, cannot find this striking form in national colours.

It may yet be possible to entrust the role of a decoy striker to Uli Hoeness, who has played in such a manner for Bayern in their European Cup ties with great success. It is imperative to use forwards capable of drawing defenders away from Müller and here the need for at least one orthodox winger has obviously been recognised by the manager.

Criticism

But talk of Schön having "lost his way", or that "the Germans are facing a crisis" is nonsense, as is the criticism of his methods. Where is today a national team who can do better than draw with Italy on their own ground? The Germans faced similar, if not worse problems before the last World Cup in 1970, when following their 0-2 defeat in Spain, the team was on the verge of disintegration. Yet, in Mexico they went on to finish in third place! Now, with home advantage the Germans must be rated favourites to clinch the trophy. Against Italy practically the same side was in action as that which triumphed in Europe two years ago, and everybody knows how well that lot can play.

In the *Bundesliga* the title holders Bayern Munich were holding off the challenge from Eintracht Frankfurt, but as expected, it was Borussia Mönchengladbach who soon emerged as the main threat to Bayern's quest for a hat-trick of championships. Bayern were still going strong in the DFB-Cup and in the European Cup, the latter remaining their priority. The Bavarians are determined to become the first German team to win this coveted trophy.

Naturally, financial considerations are paramount to a club with such a huge salaries bill. Bayern's use of the Olympic stadium has helped them to achieve an average League attendence of 41,074 per match, which is the highest in the country.

Ralph Coates of Tottenham Hotspur and Wolfgang Overath of FC Cologne in action at White Hart Lane in a UEFA Cup match. Tottenham won 3–0.

The side has been clearly strengthened by the return of Jupp Kapelmann, who was injured in the international v. Austria in October and has thus probably lost his chance of establishing himself in the World Cup squad.

Bayern are pleased with the progress of their Swede Conny Torstensson, who appears to have settled on the right wing. Goalkeeper Sepp Maier has extended his contract for another five years, which will keep him in Munich till 1979. The inimitable Gerd Müller having scored his 250th goal in the *Bundesliga* (since 1965), has left other rivals far, far behind. He too, has no intention of leaving Bayern.

Borussia Mönchengladbach are also in the running for European honours, but whether they can overhaul Bayern will depend largely on their staying power, for the brilliance of their football has never been questioned. But like true thoroughbreds, the Gladbachers suffer from occasional capricious lapses of concentration and are apt to lose matches, when least expected. Thus the stage is set for an exciting finish to the title race, as a worthy prelude to the World Cup series.

Brian Marshall looks at the career of a soccer crusader

JARMAN SPREADS GOSPEL

JOHN Jarman is a barn-storming soccer fanatic. For the last nine years he has been spreading the soccer gospel all over the country and also in different parts of the world.

He is a great believer in sowing the seeds and allowing other people to gather in the harvest.

In this respect he is an ideal choice as the first national director of coaching in the Republic of Ireland.

There is no doubt that he is well qualified to carry out the directive of the F.A.I. He possesses a wealth of experience in dealing with all aspects of the game and is a firm advocate in giving the sport a firm foundation upon which to build.

He realises that in Ireland he faces numerous problems but on the other hand the prospects are tremendous if he is successful in lighting the fuse.

Jarman, who had a playing career which involved spells with Wolves, Barnsley and Walsall, has achieved far more recognition as a coach. It is his ability to be involved at all levels which has made him such a good choice by the F.A.I.

As a coach he had two periods with Football League clubs. He assisted Walsall from the third to the second division and later joined West Bromwich Albion where he helped to coach such players as Tony Brown, Ray Wilson and Bobby Hope.

It is in his role as regional coach in the Midlands that he has achieved most success. Here he has been instrumental in building up a good relationship with schools, club and county associations.

The 40-year-old Welshman makes no secret of the fact that the only way he is to succeed in Ireland is with the co-operation of all parties in the game. He says: "It is no use to the sport in general if we are going to have splinter groups.

"Together we have a wonderful opportunity to really put soccer on the map in Ireland. If we are divided there is no chance."

Venture

A man who speaks his own mind for the good of the game, Jarman is convinced that there must be dramatic changes in policy at all levels if the venture is to be a big success.

Among the pressing problems at senior level is to convince the clubs that they are not nursery teams for the big English clubs who periodically fly across and make quick scouting raids which usually result in the best players being lured into the Football League.

Jarman says: "One of my tasks is to try and influence the clubs not to release their best young players to English teams.

"At the present time no one is bothered but it has got to stop because these English clubs are taking the base out of the foundation of football in Ireland. Only recently Arsenal took four young players, while Manchester United could have wrecked the Shelbourne side after acquiring the services of the three leading young players in the team.

"In the long run it will be to the benefit of the clubs if they can retain these players because eventually a new surge of enthusiasm will inject a great deal of money into the game.

"I believe in my own mind that if they could only sort out the problem between the North and the South, Ireland could produce a World Cup winning side.

"But before this can occur a great many basic things need to be done. The clubs can help themselves. As I said before they can hold on to their young players. In this way they would be able to build up a higher standard which would attract better attendances at their matches.

Standard

"Obviously, it is a long term policy from which the clubs themselves would benefit in the long run.

"It is no use clubs recruiting players from England because in the main most of these are has-beens and cannot improve the standard of the game in Ireland. Home grown players must be accorded the opportunity to make the grade.

"I hope to be able to help in this department by providing a good sound base for the game. Of course I will be looking for assistance from such people as Dave Bacuzzi, who has four years of success at Cork Hibs, and Shay Brennan.

"It is also possible that members of the international side will come over and help for a short spell. Top flight coaches like Noel Cantwell, Frank O'Farrell and Pat Saward could also make short visits to show the kind of standard that is required in the future.

Stimulated

"There is no doubt in my mind that the 1-0 win over Poland only a few days after the Poles had beaten England has really stimulated interest in Ireland. This could just be the start of future success but there is obviously a great deal to be done."

Among Jarman's many responsibilities will be the coaching and preparation of the National teams. At senior level he will work in close liaison with team manager Johnny Giles, while he could be manager of the recently formed under-23 side.

Already he has had talks with Giles about plans for the forthcoming three match tour of South America for games gainst Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

It was Jarman, incidentally, who arranged a special training session for the Irish players at Bisham Abbey prior to the Poland game. This was the first time such an in-depth session had been arranged and in future it will be the policy of the F.A.I. to have regular training sessions at international team level.

Jarman, the first ever national coach of any sport in Ireland, claims that the future success depends upon the co-operation of all groups and good organisation.

He said: "My most important task is to organise the game at grass-roots level. This is what has been lacking in the past and my first priority to produce a good, solid foundation upon which to build the game in the future. Everyone has a part to play and they will eventually reap the success from the venture."

● Continued from page 12

played only six fixtures altogether, only four European players have played in all their teams' game over the full four-year period. Christo Bonev, the Bulgarian midfield star, represented his country in all 15 matches, while the experienced Swiss midfield pair, Odermatt and Kuhn, appeared together on twelve consecutive occasions. The fourth ever-present is the Maltese forward, Cocks, who also played twelve time. But the highest number of appearances in competition went to the Italian *libero*, Burgnich, who turned out for Italy on 19 out of 20 occasions.

There are no prizes for guessing the leading European goalscorer of the 1970s. Who else but the West German "bomber", Gerd Muller, could have notched 21 goals in 15 appearances? And that 21 represents 60 per cent of West Germany's goals!

The only player to match this level of scoring is, of course, the Dutch superstar of Barcelona, Johan Cruyff, with 12 goals in nine games. He finished third in the goal-scorers list behind Luigi Riva of Italy, who netted 13 times in 17 appearances.

Referee Gordon Kew calls a halt to the game at St. James' Park after Newcastle fans had invaded the pitch during the FA Cup quarter final match against Nottingham Forest.

Referees concerned

IN recent months there has been a growing concern amongst English referees about the vexed question of disciplinary procedures. The referees, themselves, are perplexed and worried at their difficult and tricky position at these Disciplinary Committee hearings, for they wonder whether they are supposed as prosecutors on behalf of the Football Association or as witnesses to the scene of the incident.

The problem was more than amply raised by Norman Butenshaw in his recent book entitled "Whose Side Are You On Ref?" in which he wrote: "In the past referees have been allowed to question the player at disciplinary hearings but the Football League Referees and Linesmen Association told the F.A. that we haven't brought the charge so why should we fight the case? We were only there as witnesses. So the F.A. changed that and the members of the Commission themselves did all the questioning". Later he adds: " . . . they (F.A.) rarely bring witnesses to refute the evidence of the player's witnesses . . . the F.A. rely on the evidence of the referee and two linesmen which is usually similar."

Very recently, on attending a referees' meeting, I heard a powerful speakers panel of referees and administrators including Ken Burns and Gordon Kew confess and confirm themselves also disturbed about the problem when the subject was raised as a point on the agenda.

The panel tended to formulate the same view as Burtenshaw and to feel that, if the referee is there as an expert witness, he should only answer questions and not be expected to formulate the prosecution's case. With due respect to all parties, I believe that Burtenshaw and the other referees must be correct.

Whether one is in favour of legal representation at these Commissions or not (and that is another thorny subject for discussion), the fact is clear that, in order for justice to be seen to be done, the respective parties should know the roles they are supposed to be playing.

There has long been a cry that a man who goes to Court as a witness should not find himself in the position of the accused. Likewise, a defendant is entitled to know who is his judge and who is his prosecutor.

Many people have long called for a complete review of the disciplinary procedures and, indeed, the Chester Report was amongst the foremost, although to be fair some changes were made in recent times, but perhaps this was with certain provisions of the Industrial Relations Act in mind.

However, what is being called for here is a simple clarification and classification of the referee's position at these Tribunals and, in the long run, surely this must be best for the referee, the player and the panel who sit to hear the cases.

Indeed, many referees see it as their function to prosecute at disciplinary hearings and they feel that it is, therefore, important to oppose the introduction of professional referees because they could lose their independence in this and other fields.

Likewise, if they attend to give evidence at these Commissions, they do not wish to find themselves in the position of having "the tables turned" and virtually finding themselves the defendants.

By ensuring that the members of the Commission were the prosecutors and the referees merely the witnesses, the referees could be seen to be independent and one of the stumbling blocks towards professional referees could, therefore, be removed.

Since in the political field the Industrial Relations Act is expected to be reformed or repealed, and there has been a survey commissioned on football in general, perhaps an opportunity will now arise within the framework of legislation to clarify the disciplinary procedures both as specifically referred to and in general to obviate these difficult problems.

● KEN GOLDMAN

FIFA NEWS

A round-up of items

McMAH MANAGE

CANADA

MR. JOHN McMahon has been appointed as full-time team manager of the Canadian National Team.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Mr. McMahon is one of the most highly respected figures in the game in North America, and has been instrumental in elevating the status of the Canadian national team in the three years that he has been the national team manager on a part-time basis.

With Canada now prepared to play a larger role in international soccer, he now occupies a key role in the future of Canadian soccer.

Before becoming associated with the Canadian teams, he was general manager of Toronto City Soccer Club and organized a number of highly successful international exhibition games and tournaments at club level, as well as helping in the development of Canadian soccer at grass-roots level through his clubs minor teams.

COLOMBIA

THE former FIFA Executive Committee member and President of the Colombian Football Federation has been elected Honorary Life President of the Colombian Football Federation at its Ordinary Congress in recognition of his many outstanding services rendered to football in Colombia.

Dr. Carbonell Insignares will have the right to vote in the Executive Committee of the Colombian F.A.

FRANCE

A ROUND Table on the medical aspects of football was held in Paris in December.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Robert Copin, Chairman of the Central Medical Committee of the French Football Federation (FFF), a meeting was held with the members of this Committee, a certain number of club doctors, physiotherapists, national and first division coaches, as well as other personalities in the spheres of football and sports medicine.

During this very instructive day, a variety of subjects were the theme of talks and discussions, always prompted by the wish to arrive at practical considerations. Amongst other things, they discussed: "evolutive" cardiology for sportsmen, medical control in training, cartilage and ligament accidents, painful feet, diet for food and drinks, the classification of sports doctors and national doctors, etc.

"France-Football", official publication of the FFF (No. 1442, 2.1.74), publishes the basic impressions drawn from the meeting by Dr. Marcel Jacob, one of the instigators of the event. Here are some of them:

"In professional football, the player's best performances, both in quality and in duration, will be achieved through close co-operation between the qualified coach and the club doctor: the latter will be assisted permanently by a cardiologist and a physiotherapist; in addition he should be able to count, at all times, on the help of specialists for dietetics, articulations and their ancillary services, with the extension to radiography and surgery.

"It is obvious that medical help in a sports club will be all the more efficient if it can intervene rapidly and surely, not only for after-care but also for prevention and indeed selection. It should always be carried out according to a strict routine belonging to football, which must define, teach and perfect: in this respect, an increase in the number of conferences, courses and international exchanges should help us to make progress."

"France-Football" (No. 1441, 26.12.73) reminds us of the advantages of this sport with reduced teams, particularly for the youngest players: a first step in the teaching of football, it gives children from 8 to 12 years old the opportunity to play in conditions suitable for their health—small field, constant supervision—whilst at the same time helping towards the formation of their character, not only physically and technically, but also morally.

An important information meeting for "regional officials" was held at the headquarters of the FFF. It was led by Mr. Henri Guerin, national coach, in the presence of President Sastre and members of the Central Committee for Youth and allowed the drawing up of an outline plan of the action which these regional or departmental officers should take as far as seven-a-side football is concerned.

INDIA

HOSTS Kerala won the XXX. National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy.

This, their first success in the championship, they gained on December 27, 1973, when they prevailed over Indian Railways, 3:2, at the floodlit Maharaja's College Stadium in Cochin. Incidentally this was Kerala's first appearance in the final.

The crowd of over 50,000 also was the biggest for a match in any National and the gate takings of over Rs. 2,25,000 the highest for any football match in India.

The architect of Kerala's victory was skipper Mani, who scored all his side's three goals, each of them coming at a psychologically right moment as the Railways were threatening to wrest the initiative.

Paradoxically Mani's poor shooting—he had scored only one goal in Kerala's previous six matches—had made many advocate his replacement.

The winners had not been impressive at the start of their campaign. But they gained momentum as the quarter-final and semi-final came on and played their most incisive football in the first half of the final. The team was sustained most by the midfield play of Jaffar, Hameed and Williams.

The Railways knocked out the most talented team in the event, Bengal, who had won the trophy the previous two years and who had in their ranks more Indian internationals than any other rivals.

The defence of the Railways contained Bengal and the opportunism of forwards Shaukat Ali, Chinna Reddy and Prakash Biswas carried them into the final. Bengal's performance against Punjab in their opening match was the best by any side in the competition. Gautam Sarkar, Pintu Choudhury, Mohammed Habeeb, Surajit Sengupta and skipper Subash Bhowmick stood out for Bengal, while Inder Singh, Gurdev Singh and Asoke Kumar caught the eye for Punjab.

The other losing semi-finalists were Maharashtra, who gave Kerala a tough fight before bowing out. In all 18 teams representing state associations and one each for the Armed Forces (Services) and the Railways took part.

The championship was held on a three-tier basis. First twelve teams played preliminary knock-outs to decide the six to join ten teams seeded into the four quarter-final pools. The first two from the pools played the quarter-finals, with the winners qualifying for a double-leg semi-finals.

IRAN

THIRTY-EIGHT successful trainees from 11 Asian countries attended the third FIFA Coaching School in Tehran and were presented with coaching certificates and licences by FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous.

The trainees represented Bahrain, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The three-month course, which ended on 27 December 1973, was sponsored and organized by the Iranian Football Federa-

from FIFA's official monthly journal

ON APPOINTED
R OF CANADA

tion in cooperation with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation and held under the supervision of FIFA coach Dettmar Cramer from the Federal Republic of Germany.

After the prize distribution ceremony in Tehran's Hilton Hotel, Mr. Cramer said that he was more than pleased with the success of the school and praised all the trainees for their dedication and discipline.

JAPAN

JAPANESE Soccer League will have no night games next season because of the petroleum crisis. The season in 1974 will be divided into two halves again; in the same way as the season before 1972.

The first half of the season will begin on 4 April and last till 2 June. The second half will start on 13 October and end on 8 December. Matches in summer will be avoided to save the electric power.

Ryuichi Sugiyama, one of the most famous international stars in Asian football, has announced his retirement from Mitsubishi F.C. of Tokyo, and the Japanese Soccer League after the end of the season in 1973. The reason given for his retirement is that his family business forces him to return to his home in Shimizu city 100 miles away from Tokyo.

Sugiyama, who is 32 years old, is known as "Golden Legs" in Asia because of his fast and accurate footwork. He competed in Asian Youth Tournaments in 1959, 1960 and 1961, the Asian Games in 1962, 1966 and 1970, and the Olympic Games in 1964 and 1968.

His appearances in national teams total 196 games (including the friendly matches against foreign club teams) and his league appearances number 115 games in 8 years.

Sugiyama has been the long-time rival of another star Kunishige Kamamoto in Japanese soccer. In their university days, Sugiyama played for the Meiji University team and Kamamoto was the ace of Waseda University. The Meiji versus Waseda match attracted a sell-out crowd to see the two young stars in the 20,000 capacity Komazawa Olympic stadium.

Sugiyama entered Mitsubishi F.C. in 1966 and Kamamoto went to the Yanmar team of Osaka in the following year. Since then, the matches between the teams of the two big rival cities became the most attractive card in Japanese Soccer League. The S-K (Sugiyama and Kamamoto) rivalry was the main factor of the so-called "Japan soccer boom" in the 60s.

In international matches, many football specialists often reckoned Sugiyama's contribution to the national team more than than of Kamamoto. When Japan defeated Argentina in the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964, it was reported that Sugiyama was offered a transfer fee of 200,000 U.S. dollars by an Argentine club, but he did not turn professional.

In the Mexico Olympics in 1968, Sugiyama's fast drilling with the ball and Kamamoto's strong striking brought the bronze medal to Japan. In every international match, the S-K combination had always been the main tactic of Japanese offence.

Sugiyama had already retired from the national team in May 1972 and has been playing only for Mitsubishi thereafter. Sugiyama will go in to his family business of a Sake (Japanese wine) retailing shop in Shimizu city hereafter and, if circumstances permit, he hopes to play and coach for a local club in the prefectural league.

LEAGUE TABLES

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	**21**	**13**	**4**	**4**	**29**	**13**	**30**
Juventus	21	11	6	4	34	20	28
Napoli	21	11	5	5	24	17	27
Inter	21	9	7	5	31	21	25
Fiorentina	21	8	9	4	24	16	25
Milan	21	10	4	7	28	24	24
Bologna	21	5	11	5	24	24	21
Roma	21	8	4	9	18	18	20
Cagliari	21	5	10	6	18	22	20
Torino	21	5	10	6	16	20	20
Cesena	21	5	9	7	18	18	19
Foggia	21	6	6	9	13	24	18
Vicenza	21	4	9	8	17	30	17
Verona	21	4	6	11	17	26	14
Genoa	21	2	9	11	11	24	13
Sampdoria	21	3	9	10	17	22	12

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse	**19**	**16**	**2**	**1**	**51**	**16**	**34**
Spora	20	13	3	4	50	21	29
Red Boys	19	12	2	5	42	25	26
Avenir	20	11	3	6	47	30	25
Aris	20	10	2	8	39	26	22
Etzella	19	8	3	8	28	31	19
Union	19	6	6	7	32	30	18
Red Star	20	7	4	9	27	33	18
Fola	20	7	4	9	35	42	18
Rumelingen	19	4	5	10	24	41	13
Stade	19	3	2	14	23	42	8
The National	20	1	2	17	9	70	4

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	**16**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**33**	**11**	**25**
Stal Mielec	17	7	8	2	22	11	22
Wisla	17	9	4	4	24	14	22
Gornik	17	8	4	5	26	16	20
Legia	17	7	6	4	20	12	20
LKS Lodz	17	8	3	6	16	16	19
Slask	17	5	7	5	14	14	17
Polonia	17	5	7	5	15	18	17
Gwardia	17	5	6	6	18	18	16
Szombierki	17	4	8	5	18	19	16
Lech	17	4	7	6	14	18	15
ROW Rybnik	17	4	7	6	11	17	15
Pogon	17	3	8	6	14	23	14
Odra Opole	17	3	7	7	13	22	13
Zaglebie Walbrzych	17	4	3	10	9	20	11
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	16	2	4	10	4	22	8

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Spartak	**22**	**19**	**2**	**1**	**48**	**18**	**40**
CSKA Sofia	22	14	5	3	38	20	33
Etar Tirnovo	21	10	5	6	30	18	25
Lok. Sofia	22	9	6	7	24	24	24
Lok. Plovdiv	20	8	7	5	26	23	23
Botev	22	9	4	9	32	39	22
Trakia	21	6	9	6	23	24	21
Slavia Sofia	22	8	4	10	27	25	20
Tchernomore	22	8	4	10	29	30	20
Akademik	22	5	10	7	23	27	20
Pirin	21	8	3	10	20	32	19
Beroe	22	6	5	11	46	35	17
Jantra	22	7	3	12	24	31	17
Pernik	22	4	9	9	18	33	17
Spartak Pleven	22	5	6	11	23	35	16
ESL Spartak	21	4	4	13	16	33	12

Ademir Da Guia plays for Brazil

NEARER and nearer draws the day when the Zaireans, fighting fit on monkey stew, play in Dortmund against the Scots, whose supporters remind one of the Duke of Wellington's remark about his troops; "I don't know if they frighten the enemy, but by God, they frighten me!" (writes BRIAN GLANVILLE).

A day earlier, in Frankfurt, on June 13, Brazil open the ball against Yugoslavia. I wonder if Ademir Da Guia will be on the field, and if he is, whether he will pinch himself during the National Anthems, just to make sure he is awake?

Da Guia's has long seemed to me one of the saddest and most ironic stories in football, and I confess that I would love to see him play just one game—or rather, at least one game—in this World Cup, to make up for all those long years of disappointment.

It was in 1966 that one seemed sure to see him in a World Cup. 1965 had been a splendid year for him. He and his midfield colleague Dudu—who have just played a brilliant role in Palmeiras' victory in the Brazilian Championship—had inspired an excellent Brazilian touring team, a team which had won in Moscow. The Belgians had raved about him. Van den Stock, the Belgian selector, eulogised him, "His relaxation and his timing are quite extraordinary. He plays like he breathes, with a composure which not even an English player has, and this enables him continuously to improvise play, to improvise it for the rest of the team, in brief, to unbalance defences with a facility which borders on nonchalance."

"And what a touch he has!" cried the then Belgian coach, Ceuleers. "It's a festival! And not only does move instantly into space, but he has an acute sense of the course of play and the way attacks are built up. He knows how to cover the middle of the field. Undoubtedly, with Pele and Garrincha, he is the player who has impressed me most."

Just as his father impressed Vittorio Pozzo in the 1938 World Cup. For Domingos Da Guia, like his tall, blond curly haired son, was nothing if not a technician, a ball player, even though his position was not in midfield but in the middle of the defence; where Brazilian full-backs then played. Pozzo called him the best full-back in a competition which included such as the Juventus couple, Alfredo Foni and Pietro Rava.

Miljan Miljanic, still in charge of Yugoslavia and in line to take over at Real Madrid after the World Cup finals.

Exasperated

Alas, Domingos blemished his performance in the 1938 World Cup in one silly moment of rage. He was exasperated by Silvo Piola, the big and wily Italian centre-forward, during the semi-final match at Marseilles, till in the end he kicked him, and was sent off. So Domingos Da Guia never played in a World Cup Final; though he did play in a World Cup.

Ademir has not been so lucky. Nor, for that matter, has Dudu. Neither came to England in 1966, when Brazil wantonly and wilfully turned back the clock, forgot the hopeful lessons of the 1965 tour, and went gerontophine; to their severe cost.

In 1970, no one even thought of Ademir. If you asked a Brazilian about him, you were always told he was "too slow." Too slow, it seems at 27, but not too slow at 31. Well, well. This is, of course, the World Cup of the veterans, with 30-year-olds all over the place. It could be that Ademir will soldier on into the finals, and that there he will show everybody in Brazil how wrong they have been, for eight long years. But what a shame he didn't get the chance in 1966.

We have had what one might call a late rush of managers to this World Cup. Though it has for a considerable time been obvious that the best, indeed the only, manager Holland could appoint was Rinus Michels, the best man Yugoslavia could find was Miljan Miljanic, it was only this year that each was appointed to look after his national team.

This makes me think that Holland could very well win the competition. I have never been in any doubt that they have the best team. What I have been most sceptical about is the capacity of that team to express itself; or, put more crudely, to exert

–let's hope he in Frankfurt

itself. There is nobody more mercenary than a Dutch footballer; with a handful of shining exceptions such as Johan Neeskens. The laughable pretence that football is anything resembling a sport seems long since abandoned amidst the cosy canals of Amsterdam. Money on the table, and plenty of it, or else . . . .

Allegiance

Rinus Michels, greatly to his credit, said that those who were with him were welcome, those who hadn't given their allegiance by March 1 could stay behind. When he was at Ajax he was known as a hard man who brooked no nonsense. He was in a position not to do so, for it was very emphatically his team, built by him from the bottom, using young players who had for the most part spent their whole career under his aegis.

He it is who seems to have the magic ability to make Johan Cruyff play, as he has done so triumphantly at Barcelona. If he can make Cruyff play in Germany then Cruyff will make everybody else play and Holland will win the World Cup. It isn't the likes of Sweden or Bulgaria who are going to stop them in their qualifying group, if they bother.

Appointment

Miljanic has accepted the appointment as senior manager after some extremely tense weeks in which the Yugoslavs seemed to have more managers than players. Indeed, the story was that when the team was in training camp at Split, the nine count them nine coaches, under the sympathetic Milovan Ciric, nearly came to blows.

The plump, swarthy, polyglot Miljanic, who has studied the game from Rio to Moscow, taking in London and West Germany on the way, is still greatly coveted by Benfica, and has had his name also linked with Real Madrid. He believes that it takes five years to make a footballer, ten to make a manager, and he has spent the whole of his career, as player, secretary then manager, with Red Star. When he took them over, eight years ago, he says that he had a multiplicity of players, but no team; foreign clubs had pillaged the club's stars. There was nothing to do but to build on youth; which he has done with immense success.

Watching his Red Star team play in Belgrade against Liverpool it was easy to believe that he is, by persuasion and inclination a Total Football man. He believes that all players should be potentially attackers, and thus able to present the colleague in possession of the ball with as many alternatives as possible. He admires Ajax; and the West German side of 1972 both, one need hardly say, Total Football teams.

Meanwhile, it seems that he hasn't the easiest disciplinary task in the world. They are a rumbustious lot, these Yugoslavs, in the image of that fine attacking-defender Bogicevic, a Red Star man, be it noted, who while in Split amused himself by driving the team bus whimsically along the pavements, to the alarm of the scattered pedestrians. But Miljanic should know how to deal with them all.

Johan Cruyff of Holland and Barcelona.

Classified results

SOUTH AMERICAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Libertadores Cup

Group 1

February 28

Rosario Central (Argentina) (0) 1 (Solari)
Huracan (Argentina) 0

Rosario Central: Biasutto, Gonzalez, Pascutini, D. Killer, M. Miller, Solari, Aimar, Poy (Kempes), Boveda, Cabral, Carril.
Huracan: Leyes, Chabay, Baglione, Basile, Carrascosa, Brindisi, Russo, Babington, Houseman, Avallay, Larrosa (Quiroga).

March 2

Union Espanola (Chile) (1) 2 (Villar, Farias)
Colo Colo (Chile) (0) 1 (Galindo)

Union Espanola: Vallejos, Machuca, Berly, Soto, Arias, Cortazar, Las Heras, Yavar, Farias, Ahumada, Villar.
Colo Colo: Neff, Galindo, E. Herrera, Gonzalez, Lara, Valdez, Paez, Gamboa, Mossen (Solis), Crisosto, Veliz.

March 5

Union Espanola (Chile) (0) 1 (Arias)
Huracan (Argentina) (0) 3 (Avallay, Babington pen., Quiroga)

Union Espanola: Vallejos, Avendano, Soto, Berly, Arias, Las Heras, Cortazar, Yavar (Spedaletti) Farias, Ahumada, Villar.
Huracan: Leyes, Chabay, Baglione, Basile, Carrascosa, Brindisi, Russo, Babington, Houseman (Scalise), Avallay, Larrosa (Quiroga).

March 7

Colo Colo (Chile) (1) 1 (Crisosto)
Huracan (Argentina) (0) 2 (Babington pen., Houseman)

Colo Colo: Neff, Galindo, Gonzalez, L. Herrera, E. Herrera, Paez, Valdez, Mossen (Elizetche), Veliz, Gamboa, Crisosto.
Huracan: Leyes, Chabay (Leone), Baglione, Diaz, Carascosa, Brindisi, Russo, Babington, Houseman, Avallay, Larrosa (Fanesi).

Group 1 Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huracan (Argentina)	3	2	—	1	5	3	4
Rosario Central (Arg.)	1	1	—	—	1	—	2
Union Espanola (Chile)	2	1	—	1	3	4	2
Colo Colo (Chile)	2	—	—	2	2	4	—

GROUP 3

February 6

Portuguesa (Venezuela) (0) 0
Valencia (Venezuela) (0) 0

February 15

Millionarios (Colombia) (2) 3 (Cespedes, Ortiz, Brand)
Nacional (Colombia) (0) 0

February 19

Valencia (Venezuela) (1) (Diaz)
Nacional (Colombia) (0) 2 (Cordoba, Londero)

Valencia: Di Biasi, Uzeche, Ellie, Diaz, Vicente, Filomeno, Martinez, Rodriguez, La Rosa, Ferreira, Pintos (Antonio Carlos).
Nacional: Quintana, T. Campaz, Maturana, Moncada, Salgado, Alvarez, Gomez, Cordoba, Retat, Londero, V. Campaz, (also Diaz, Gallegos).

Portuguesa (Venezuela) 2
Millionarios (Colombia) 0

Portuguesa: Romero, Marin, Marcenaro, Tavarelli, Marquina, Ivoldi, Loviento, Mendoza, Peralta, Milton Diaz, Echenausi.
Millionarios: Truccia, Hernandez, Gavira, Rodriguez, Vila, Soto, Guillo, Waltinho, Ortiz, Brand, Figueroa. (Also Peralta, Cespedes).

February 21

Portuguesa (Venezuela) (0) 0
Nacional (Colombia) (0) 0
Valencia (Venezuela) 1
Millionarios (Colombia) 1

Valencia: Di Biasi, Uzeche, Ellie, Diaz, Vicente, Filomeno, Martinez, Antonio Carlos, La Rosa, Ferreira, Pintos.
Millionarios: Truccia, Segovia, Rodriguez, Soto, E. Gonzalez, J. Gonzalez, Crosci, Waltinho, Figueroa, Cespedes, Peralta.

March 7

Millionarios (Colombia) (0) 2 (Rodriguez, Waltinho)
Nacional (Colombia) (1) 1 (Londero)
Valencia (Venezuela) 0
Portuguesa (Venezuela) 1

Group 3 Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa (Ven.)	4	2	2	—	3	1	6
Millionarios (Col.)	4	2	1	1	6	4	5
Nacional (Col.)	4	1	1	2	3	6	3
Valencia (Ven.)	4	—	2	2	2	4	2

GROUP 4

February 17

Nacional (Ecuador)
Universidad Catolica (Ecuador) (0)
Defensor Lima (Peru) 2 (Bailetti 2)
Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0

February 24

Universidad Catolica (Ecuador) (1) 1 (Villalba)
Defensor Lima (Peru) (0)

Universidad Catolica: Romero, Mendez, Portilla, Carrera, Cajape, Mantilla, Russo, Medina, Vera, Villalba, Larea.
Defensor Lima: Verderi, Navarro, Manzo, Stucchi, Fernandez, Manrique, Trigueros, Barabadillo, Bailetti, Drago (Wulche), F. Gonzalez.

February 27

Nacional (Ecuador) (0) 0
Defensor Lima (Peru) (0) 0

March 2

Universidad Catolica (Ecuador) (0) 0
Sporting Cristal (Peru) (0) 0

Universidad Catolica: Romera, Mendez, Portilla, Carrera, Cajape, Medina, Russo (Polo Carrera), Mantilla, Vera, Villalba, Larea.
Sporting Cristal: Quiroga, Campos, Mellan, De la Torre, Vicente, Vargas (Palacios), Quesada, Del Castillo, Gallardo, Vinha, Camacho.

March 6

Nacional (Ecuador) (0) 3 (Estupinan 2, Cabezas)
Sporting Cristal (Peru) (0) 0

Nacional: Delgado, Perdomo, Velarde, Perez, Lasso, Cabezas, Rhon, Garces, Rodriguez, Estupinan, Paz, (Mino).
Sporting Cristal: Quiroga, Carpio, Mellan, De la Torres, Vicente, Quesada, Vargas, Jaime, Del Castillo, Souza, Gallardo.

March 8

Nacional (Ecuador) (0) 0
Universidad Catolica (Ecuador) (0) 0

Group 4 Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional (Ecu.)	4	2	2	—	5	—	6
Universidad Catolica (Ecu.)	4	1	2	1	1	2	4
Defensor Lima (Per.)	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Sporting Cristal (Per.)	3	—	1	2	—	5	1

GROUP 5

February 5

Penarol (Uruguay) (1) 1 (R. Corbo)
Nacional (Uruguay) (0)

Penarol: W. Corbo, Gonzalez, Sandoval, Garisto (Olivera), Castano, Gimenez, Acosta, Silva, Quevedo, Morena, R. Corbo.
Nacional: Manga, Gimenez, Gerolami, Masnik, Moller, D. Mantegazza, Rodriguez (Castro), Mantegazza, Revestra, Soria, Cubilla.

Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (1) 1 (Talavera)
Olimpia (Paraguay) (0) 0

Cerro Porteno: Baez (R.), Rodriguez, Trochem, Gavilan, Melgarejo, Osorio (Encisi), Jara Saguier, Talavera, Bareiro, Rolon (C. Baez), Beron.
Olimpia: Almeida, Morales, Sosa, Bordon, Leon, Godoy, Reyes, Espinosa, Aquino (Kiese), Insfran, Bastida (Jimenez).

February 9

Nacional (Uruguay) (1) 1 (Artime)
Olimpia (Paraguay) (1) 1 (Aquino)

Nacional: Manga, Gimenez, Gerolami (Vallarino), Masnik, Moller, Riveiro, D. Mantegazza, L. Mantegazza, (Castro), Rodriguez, Artime, Cubilla.
Olimpia: Almeida, Morales, Sosa, Bordon, Leon, Godoy (Correa), Reyes, Espinosa, Bastidas, Insfran, Aquino (Gimenez).

February 13

Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 0
Olimpia (Paraguay) (0) 0

Penarol: W. Corbo, Sandoval, Garisto, Gonzalez, Acosta, Castano, Quevedo, Gimenez, Morena, Silva, R. Cobo.
Olimpia: Almeida, Morales, Sosa, Bordon, Rivero, Godoy, Reyes, Espinosa, Quino, Insfran, Bastidas.

February 17

Nacional (Uruguay) (1) 1 (Troche o.g.)
Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (1) 2 (Talavera, Bareiro)

February 20

Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 1 (Morena pen.)
Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (0) 0

February 23

Nacional (Uruguay (1) 2 (Mantegazza, Rodriguez)
Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 0

Nacional: Manga, Gimenez, Gerolami, Masnik, Senatore, Mantegazza, Techera, Riveiro, Cubilla, Calandria (Rodriguez), Silvera.
Penarol: W. Corbo, Gonzalez, Sandoval, Garisto, Castano, Jimenez (Unarme), Acosta, Silva, Quevedo (Arzola), Morena, R. Cobo.

February 25

Olimpia (Paraguay) (1) 1 (Insfran)
Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (0) 1 (Troche)

Olimpia: Almeida, Molinas, Sosa, Villalba, Bordon, Godoy, Reyes, Espinoza, Aquina, Insfran, Jimenez.
Gerro Porteno: A. Baez, Rodriguez, Encisi, Gavilan, Melgarejo, Osorio, Troche, Talavera, Bareiro (Beron), Rolon (Diaz), C. Baez.

March 1

Olimpia (Paraguay) (0) 0
Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 2 (Quevedo, Morena)

Olimpia: Almeida, Sosa, Molinas, Villalba, Bordon, Godoy (Correa), Reyes, Kiese, Aquino, Insfran, Bastidas.
Penarol: W. Corbo, Sandoval, Garisto, Gonzalez, Acosta, Zoeyez, Quevedo, Jimenez (Unarmus), Morena, Silva, Liuzzi (Arzola).

March 3

Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (0) 2
Nacional (Uruguay) (1) 2

March 6

Olimpia (Paraguay) (1) 2 (Bastida, Insfran)
Nacional (Uruguay) (0) 0

Olimpia: Almeida, Bordon, Sosa, Reyes, Leon, Martinez, Espinosa, Kiese, Bastida, Insfran, Jimenez.
Nacional: Manga, Moller, Vallarino, Masnik, Senatore, Riveiro, Techera, W. Mantegazza, Castro, L. Mantegazza, Repetto.

March 8

Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) (0) 1 (Beaz)
Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 1 (Morena)

Group 5 Final Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PENAROL (Urug.)	6	3	2	1	5	3	8
Cerro Porteno (Parag.)	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Olimpia (Parag.)	6	1	3	2	4	5	5
Nacional (Urug.)	6	1	2	3	6	8	4

(Penarol qualify for semi final groups).

SOUTH AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP (in Chile)

Uruguay 3 (Revetria 3), Colombia 1 (Renajos) (March 2); Chile 1 (Mena), Venezuela 1 (Gonzalez) (March 2); Chile 3, Colombia 0 (March 6); Brazil 5, Venezuela 1 (March 6); Argentina 1, (Cofone) Ecuador 0 (March 8); Argentina 1 (Cofone), Paraguay 1 (Kieser) (March 9); Brazil 6 Colombia 1 (March 9); Uruguay 2, Chile 0 (March 9).

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Defensor Lima (Peru) 3 Spartak (Czechoslovakia) 1 (Feb 11); Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1 Independiente (Argentina) 0 (Feb 15); Universitario (Peru) 3 Independiente (Argentina) 3 (Feb 18).

and League Tables

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SW Innsbruck	**19**	**14**	**4**	**1**	**46**	**12**	**32**
V,EST Linz	20	12	6	3	36	22	29
Austria/WAC	20	12	4	4	40	20	28
Rapid	19	9	7	3	41	24	25
Sturm Graz	19	9	2	8	15	20	20
Austria Salzburg	20	7	5	8	24	22	19
VSV Radenthein	20	4	11	5	22	20	19
DSV Alpine	19	7	5	7	29	29	19
Admira/Wacker	20	7	5	8	33	36	19
Graz AK	20	6	7	7	19	24	19
Simmering	20	7	4	9	31	29	18
Austria Klagenburt	19	6	5	8	25	28	17
Linzer ASK	20	6	5	9	23	27	17
Wiener SC	20	5	7	8	24	39	17
Eisenstadt	19	6	2	11	19	34	14
Vienna	20	3	5	12	16	36	11
Vorarlberg	20	3	5	12	19	40	11

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	**26**	**17**	**6**	**3**	**62**	**17**	**40**
Atletico Madrid	26	13	5	8	41	23	31
Zaragoza	26	13	5	8	39	31	31
Malaga	26	11	8	7	25	23	30
Atletico Bilbao	26	12	5	9	28	25	29
Granada	26	9	9	8	22	25	27
Valencia	25	11	4	10	31	23	26
Real Sociedad	25	10	6	9	29	34	26
Real Madrid	26	9	8	9	32	27	26
Espanol	26	10	5	11	24	29	25
Celta Vigo	26	9	6	11	36	37	24
Gijon	26	11	2	13	39	44	24
Elche	26	9	5	12	18	24	23
Las Palmas	26	10	2	14	22	31	22
Castellon	26	7	8	11	20	34	22
Oviedo	26	8	4	14	25	38	20
Murica	26	6	8	12	21	34	20
Santander	26	6	8	12	27	42	20

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	**24**	**19**	**2**	**3**	**80**	**14**	**40**
Benfica	24	17	3	4	44	16	37
Porto	24	15	6	3	36	16	36
Setubal	24	15	5	4	54	18	35
Belenenses	24	11	6	7	38	27	28
Guimaraes	24	9	9	6	29	25	27
Farense	24	7	8	9	29	28	22
CUF Barreiro	24	7	8	9	28	35	22
Boavista	24	7	5	12	26	35	19
Academica	24	7	5	12	25	34	19
Barreirense	24	6	7	11	17	30	19
Olhanense	24	7	5	12	31	52	19
Leixoes	24	7	3	14	27	45	17
Montijo	24	5	5	14	29	50	15
Oriental	24	7	1	16	23	69	15
Beira-Mar	24	5	4	15	27	49	14

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP details next month

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk Split	**21**	**11**	**6**	**4**	**35**	**18**	**28**
Velez	21	10	5	6	38	27	25
Celik	21	8	9	4	21	13	25
Radnicki Nis	21	10	4	7	21	23	24
Red Star Belgrade	21	9	4	8	42	34	22
Zeljeznicar	21	8	6	7	24	18	22
Partizan	21	8	6	7	26	21	22
Dinamo	21	9	3	9	21	20	21
Proleter	21	8	5	8	23	25	21
Olimpija	21	8	5	8	25	29	21
Vardar	21	9	2	10	26	24	20
OFK Belgrade	21	7	6	8	23	24	20
Sloboda	21	5	9	7	23	29	19
Vojvodina	21	5	8	8	15	20	18
Bor	21	8	2	11	25	35	18
NK Zagreb	21	6	6	9	17	30	18
Borac	21	3	11	7	20	23	17
Sarajevo	21	5	7	9	17	29	17

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	**26**	**19**	**6**	**1**	**77**	**20**	**44**
Feyenoord	26	18	6	2	72	25	42
Twente	26	17	8	1	47	15	42
PSV Eindhoven	26	15	7	4	77	32	37
Amsterdam	26	13	8	5	36	24	34
Telstar	26	8	10	8	37	40	26
Utrecht	26	12	2	12	40	47	26
Sparta	26	9	7	10	30	35	25
Go Ahead	26	10	5	11	34	46	25
AZ 67	26	7	10	9	26	31	24
MVV	26	6	11	9	25	39	21
Den Haag	26	7	7	12	23	39	21
De Graafschap	26	6	8	12	30	55	20
Haarlem	26	6	6	14	21	35	18
Roda JC	26	5	7	14	26	41	17
Groningen	26	5	7	14	31	64	17
NAC Breda	26	4	6	16	32	59	14
NEC Nijmegen	26	3	7	16	22	39	13

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coleraine	**15**	**11**	**2**	**2**	**28**	**13**	**24**
Glenavon	16	10	2	4	28	22	22
Portadown	16	9	3	4	40	15	21
Ballymena	16	8	3	5	28	18	19
Bangor	17	8	3	6	33	24	19
Linfield	16	6	6	4	33	18	18
Crusaders	15	8	2	5	33	26	18
Ards	16	6	4	6	32	27	16
Larne	15	5	3	7	24	36	13
Glentoran	14	4	2	8	17	23	10
Cliftonville	17	3	2	12	17	48	8
Distillery	17	0	2	15	18	61	2

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	**34**	**20**	**12**	**2**	**56**	**22**	**52**
Liverpool	32	19	8	5	40	23	46
Derby	34	13	13	8	43	33	39
Ipswich	34	14	10	10	56	50	38
Q.P.R.	32	11	14	7	49	41	36
Everton	33	13	9	11	40	37	35
Leicester	32	11	12	9	40	32	34
Chelsea	35	12	10	13	54	48	34
Burnley	33	12	10	11	39	42	34
Coventry	35	13	7	15	38	45	33
Manchester City	33	11	10	12	30	29	32
Sheffield United	33	11	10	12	39	40	32
Stoke	32	9	13	10	43	36	31
Newcastle	31	12	7	12	40	34	31
Wolves	33	10	11	12	38	42	31
Tottenham	32	10	11	11	35	42	31
Arsenal	33	10	10	13	36	43	30
West Ham	34	9	11	14	44	52	29
Southampton	33	9	11	13	39	54	29
Birmingham	32	8	9	15	35	53	25
Manchester United	33	6	11	16	25	39	23
Norwich	33	4	13	16	27	49	21

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	**23**	**18**	**5**	**0**	**76**	**9**	**41**
Panathinaikos	23	16	4	3	49	16	36
Aris Salonika	23	16	4	3	35	15	36
PAOK Salonika	23	13	5	5	48	26	31
AEK Athens	23	12	4	7	43	25	28
Panachaiki	23	11	6	6	29	20	28
Panionios	23	12	3	8	31	24	27
Ethnikos	23	9	3	11	27	31	21
Larissa	23	7	7	9	18	24	21
Iraklis	23	5	10	8	20	26	20
Olympiakos Volos	23	7	5	11	20	30	19
Fostir	23	6	6	11	16	45	18
Kavala	23	5	6	12	24	35	16
Apollon	23	5	6	12	20	44	16
Panseraikos	23	6	3	14	19	39	15
Apoel	23	6	2	15	21	37	14
Aigaleo	23	4	6	13	14	36	14
Apollon	23	4	5	14	12	40	13

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	**24**	**15**	**6**	**3**	**60**	**27**	**36**
Antwerp	23	12	7	4	38	20	31
Molenbeek	24	10	11	3	36	18	31
Malines	24	10	9	5	29	23	29
FC Bruges	24	10	5	9	49	33	25
Standard	24	8	9	7	30	27	25
Waregem	23	7	9	7	33	41	23
Liege	22	8	6	9	35	37	22
CS Bruges	24	7	8	9	39	39	22
Diest	24	7	8	9	36	38	22
Berchem	24	7	7	10	28	40	21
Beveren-waas	23	6	9	8	19	22	21
Lierse	24	4	11	9	26	37	19
Beerschot	23	6	6	11	31	42	18
St Trond	24	4	10	10	23	41	18
Beringen	23	4	7	12	18	45	15

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	**26**	**15**	**7**	**4**	**75**	**45**	**37**
Moenchengladbach	26	15	5	6	66	43	35
Fort. Dusseldorf	26	13	7	6	50	35	33
Eintracht Frank.	26	12	9	5	49	40	33
FC Cologne	26	12	6	8	49	40	30
Hamburger	26	12	4	10	48	40	28
Schalke 04	26	12	4	10	61	56	28
VfB Stuttgart	26	11	5	10	50	45	27
Kaiserslautern	26	10	6	10	58	55	26
Hertha	26	8	10	8	44	44	26
Kickers Offenbach	26	9	7	10	44	47	25
Werder Bremen	26	7	9	10	33	42	23
Rot-Weiss Essen	26	8	7	11	43	54	23
MSV Duisburg	26	7	6	13	31	43	20
VfL Bochum	26	6	8	12	31	44	20
Wuppertaler	26	7	6	13	34	50	20
Hannover	26	5	7	14	40	54	17
Fortuna Cologne	26	4	9	13	35	64	17

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
St Etienne	**29**	**16**	**7**	**6**	**54**	**35**	**8**	**47**
Nantes	28	15	6	7	46	28	8	44
Angers	29	14	6	9	59	43	9	43
Lyon	29	14	9	6	49	35	5	42
Nice	29	12	7	10	52	40	9	40
Sochaux	29	12	7	10	44	35	6	37
Reims	29	12	5	12	49	49	7	37
Lens	29	12	6	11	49	49	7	37
Nimes	28	10	11	7	32	27	3	34
Troyes	29	10	8	11	40	43	6	34
Nancy	28	8	11	9	42	52	6	33
Metz	29	11	5	13	41	36	6	33
Monaco	28	9	7	12	47	48	6	31
Marseille	29	9	8	12	45	50	5	31
Bastia	28	10	6	12	31	33	4	30
Strasbourg	29	7	11	11	43	56	5	30
Paris	29	8	7	14	43	58	7	30
Rennes	28	11	5	12	25	37	1	28
Bordeaux	29	6	9	14	35	48	5	26
Sedan	29	7	7	15	32	56	2	23

Penalty fiasco must be halted

THE penalties farce is a fiasco which has continued too long. I know I may be accused of bias in writing this in the wake of Ipswich's defeat on the spot kick rules by Lokomotive Leipzig in the UEFA Cup.

No matter. That same night penalty kicks ruined Spartak Trnava's dreams of a place in the Champions' Cup semi finals. They, you will recall, were outpointed by Ujpest.

No. The penalty decider was fair enough for such competitions as the Watney Cup—now happily defunct. But there is too much pride, prestige and cash at stake in the three senior European competitions for this long-drawn-out experiment to continue any longer.

UEFA should act this summer to erase the rule, and return us all to a situation where football-as-it-is-played must be the arbiter.

No, I am not advocating a return to the play-off system.

I would sorely like to see it reintroduced. But I know only too well the reasons for its demise: clubs from several countries, but the English in particular, have such over-loaded League programmes that they found it almost impossible to fit in the play-offs to suit the European competitions.

That is a fault inherent to the league system anywhere: that League and Cup matches make money (generally), therefore it is in the clubs' private interests to cram in as many as possible. Thus the campaign against the play-offs was mounted mainly by the national federations and associations, not so much their members individually.

Flexibility

There were of course plenty of cases where play-offs were ridiculous: imagine Stroemgodset of Norway being forced to a play-off in Frankfurt against Vitoria Setubal.

What would the crowd be: 5,000?

Certainly not enough to pay even the basic costs of either team.

Therefore, If any influential gentlemen from UEFA should cast their eyes over this plea, please bear me idea in mind—a suggestion of flexibility.

I know that British clubs have both lost and gained from the penalties rule, so I have no axe to grind.

Just do us all a favour.

Let clubs still on level terms after extra time in the second leg, play on until a deciding goal is scored. The Spaniards have used this system in their two-leg cup ties for many years. Why not bring it into standard use for European competition?

I even toyed with the idea of suggesting that clubs decide, when they agree on match arrangements, whether to play on over extra time or go on to a play-off should they still be equal after 210 minutes.

But that would require a great deal of regulation by UEFA, and would make the progress of the competitions virtually impossible to follow.

To misquote Arthur Rowe: "Football is a simple game; it's some of the rules that make it difficult."

• KEIR RADNEDGE

Kazadi Karahi, the Zaire goalkeeper.

World Soccer
GEOFF HURST
Stoke City

SPAIN

Photo shows: Iribar, Sol, Jesus Martinez, Benito, Uria, Juan Carlos, Claramunt, Asensi, Amancio, Garate, Valdez.